

THE TIMES
Tomorrow
Before the Day

Bernard Levin before
The Day After
Tropical...
Forever England in
Jamaica
... aisle
The joys of singing in a
choir
Playing...
100 choices for children's
presents
... the game
Smart Jones analyses the
cup draws in Europe

Russia puts a stop to Start

The Soviet Union refused to set a date for the resumption of the strategic arms reduction talks in Geneva. The deployment of US missiles in Europe was given as the reason for the suspension of the negotiations.

None meeting, page 6

Opec agrees to hold oil price

Opec has agreed to continue the present price and production agreement and will confirm today in Geneva that its prices should remain unchanged for at least 12 months. The decision will remove much of the uncertainty from world financial markets.

Earlier report, page 17

Lords TV vote

The House of Lords has carried by 74 votes to 24 a motion for the experimental televising of its proceedings.

Parliament, page 4

It's Carrington

None Foreign Minister yesterday unanimously appointed Lord Carrington to succeed Dr Joseph Luns of The Netherlands as Secretary-General. He takes over next June.

Leading article, page 15

Britons missing

Two British businessmen have disappeared from their Paris hotels, the British Embassy there confirmed. Both were last seen on December 1. Page 6

New year curb

Trafalgar Square's fountains are to be drained and boarded up on New Year's Eve to prevent a repetition of last year's crush, which killed two women. Page 3

Plane search

The RAF joined coastguards last night in searching for an aircraft carrying eight passengers from Liverpool which went out of radio contact shortly before it was due at Stornoway, Hebrides.

Drug profits cut

Cuts in the profits that drug companies make from the health service and in the amount spent on advertising have been announced by the Government. Page 2

Rapist's choice

One of three men convicted of rape in the United States and told by a judge to choose between 30 years in prison and castration said he would prefer to be castrated. Page 8

Bowling change

A proposal requiring counties to hold a minimum of 117 overs in a full day's championship if negotiations with the TCCB at Lord's on Tuesday. Page 22

Leader page, 15
Letters: On way of the Cross, from the Archbishop of York; parole, from Mrs S McCabe; Ulster murder, from Mr W McDowell

Leading articles: Lord Carrington and Nato; Calke Abbey

Features, pages 12-14

Why the Government needs PR professionals; Winning in spite of themselves; Bernard Levin on freezing out the urban terrorist; David Watt asks what's left when the nuclear dust has settled; Spectrum: Kenya 20 years after independence. Friday page: Drowning in a sea of debt

Obituary, page 16
The Rt Hon Sir Keith Holyoake, Lieut-Col Kenneth Garside

Name	2, 3, 5	Motoring	25
Overseas	6, 8	Parliament	4
Appts	20	Press Bldgs	16
Arts	11	Sale Rooms	2
Books	17-22	Science	16
Chess	2	Sport	22-24
Court	16	TV & Radio	27
Crossword	28	Theatre, etc	27
Diary	14	Weather	28
Law Report	10	Wills	16

Syria seeks Soviet troops pledge as warning to Reagan

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

Syria has asked the Soviet Union to revise their strategic cooperation agreement so that Soviet ground troops could be sent to Damascus if the Syrian Army has to withstand a military assault in Lebanon.

Until now it has been generally assumed that the Russians would intervene militarily only if Syrian sovereign territory were attacked, but officials in Damascus are making no secret that they would like to revise the terms of the pact, in the words of a government spokesman, "to meet the imbalance resulting from the Israeli-American strategic agreement".

Syria's request to Moscow is intended as a warning to President Reagan, whose new cooperation agreement with Israel is viewed with the gravest concern in Damascus. Syria's fear that it may face a joint US-Israeli attack is genuinely felt, despite President Reagan's insistence that the Americans are not looking for a battle with Syria.

There are up to 6,000 Soviet military personnel in Syria. Most of them are advisers and the remainder constitute the crews for the Sam 5 ground-to-air missile batteries installed at sites early this year.

Despite claims to the contrary in Washington, there are no Soviet combat troops in Syria. Indeed, the Russians have hitherto preferred not to contemplate any military actions which might suck them into the Lebanese quagmire. A few Soviet radar personnel have crossed occasionally into Lebanon to calibrate equipment on the Syrians' Sam 6 rockets, but that appears to have been the extent of their involvement.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, however, Mr Muhammad Haidar, head of the foreign relations committee of the ruling Baath Party's National Command, said that his Government had "no doubt at all that, if Syria is attacked, the Soviet Union will immediately take our side both politically and militarily".

When I asked Mr Haidar if Damascus now wanted Soviet troops to come to Syria if the Syrian Army was attacked in Lebanon, he replied: "It makes no difference if Syrian forces are attacked in Lebanon or in Syria — we are allied to the Soviet Union. Between two allied

forces, the differentiation you mention makes no difference."

Moscow may prefer to leave things as they stand with Damascus, and it is important to realize that the Syrians do not intend to request the presence of Soviet troops on their soil before any military attack should take place.

They are following their usual practice of steadily increasing the stakes in the Middle East, in the hope of making their potential enemies think twice about military adventures. Syria also likes to publicize its independence from the Soviet Union and would probably seek direct Russian assistance only as a last resort.

Nevertheless, if they can include such support in the event of fighting in Lebanon, then the Syrians will have substantially increased the risk of a superpower confrontation, as they believe the United States has done by forging a strategic agreement with Israel.

The daily fighting in which US Marines are involved in Beirut airport came under sustained rocket, mortar and small-arms fire again yesterday morning and fought off their

Continued on back page, col 1

Pressure mounts in Israel to kill or capture Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli threat to the evacuation of Mr Yassir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization from Tripoli was intensified yesterday when Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, announced that suggestions he should be killed or captured were now under consideration by his Government.

Strict military censorship is being employed to prevent reporters discussing the military and naval options open to the Israelis. The anti-Arafat atmosphere has been encouraged by a number of powerful cartoons in the local press, one showing him riding on the charred shell of the Israeli bus wrecked in Tuesday's PLO bomb jubilantly waving the United Nations flag.

Speaking yesterday after visiting the survivors in hospital, Mr Shamir was asked for his response to the call from Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister, for the "physical liquidation" of Mr Arafat. "We

are considering all the ways of action", he replied.

He bitterly attacked the evacuation plan due to get under way in the next 48 hours. "I think it is the subject for the most extreme condemnation of the UN, whose purpose is to safeguard peace and which is giving its protection to such a murderous organization which claims responsibility for this crime," he said.

Ministers have denied that the Cabinet agreed to allow Mr Arafat safe passage as part of last month's prisoner exchange with the PLO. Asked if there had been a decision not to block his departure, Mr David Levy, the deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday: "I did not say there had been a decision; nor can I give even a hint that there has been a decision to the contrary. There are matters for which the best response is silence."

Meanwhile, the bus attack has prompted outspoken condemnation of a PLO terrorist action by radical Palestinian

leaders from the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Their unexpected move was hailed by Mr Shamir as a "positive trend" and by the opposition Labour Party as possibly the first sign of a wish for coexistence by the West Bank Arabs.

The leaders who signed the statement deplored the attack were Mr Karim Khalil, deposed Mayor of Ramallah who was imprisoned in the 1980 car bomb attack unofficially blamed on Jewish extremists; Mr Mustafa Natache, deposed Mayor of Hebron; Mr Avner Nussbaum, chairman of the East Jerusalem Electric Company, and the publisher and editor of the pro-PLO Arabic language daily *Al Fajr*.

● NEW YORK: An Israeli request to stop the UN flag being flown on ships evacuating the PLO from Tripoli has been denied by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General (Zoriana Pyšariwsky writes).

NGA may call all-out strike

By Paul Rontledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the National Graphical Association are considering an all-out strike which would halt publication of national and local newspapers if peace talks fail to resolve the union's closed-shop dispute with Mr Selim ("Eddie") Shah's Messinger Group.

The NGA national council has been called into emergency session in Bedford tomorrow to determine the union's next step if negotiations with Mr Shah collapse.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the 133,000-strong craft print union, said last night after talks with the TUC general secretary, Mr Len Murray, that the dispute "could spread into every area of the industry".

This could happen if peace moves by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) fail to yield a settlement or if Mr Shah breaks off the talks.

Officials of the NGA went to the London headquarters of Acas last night for a fourth successive night of negotiations conducted at arm's length through conciliators.

They went into the peace process deeply pessimistic about the prospect of a deal to end the 23-week-old conflict with the Stockport-based Messinger Group over NGA claims for a closed shop and the reinstatement of six dismissed print workers.

The *Times* understands that the plans have been drawn up for a national strike in the printing and newspaper industry as the NGA's "final offer" of opposition to the operation of the Government's new labour laws.

Its opposition has already cost it £150,000 in fines for contempt of court orders not to interfere with the production of Mr Shah's newspapers.

Continued on page 2, col 2

Last phone strikers sent back to work

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Post Office Engineering Union last night called off the final phase of its industrial action against government plans to sell off British Telecom and effectively signalled its battle to halt the sale.

A special meeting of the union's executive has decided to send back to work 1,400 telephone engineers in the international exchanges in London who have been on strike for two months in a dispute which last month threatened to thrust the union into direct conflict with the Government's labour laws.

The union backed down from that confrontation and since its delegate conference last month has decided to send back to work all engineers who had been either on strike or locked out in the campaign of industrial action.

Mr Bryan Stanley, the union's general secretary, said last night: "The union now has a period to examine and rebuild

its resources ready for the many battles we will have to fight in the new year."

In spite of Mr Stanley's brave words, the union, which has a left-dominated executive, has decided that the cost of the industrial action was prohibitive when compared with the results. It was clear to yesterday's meeting that the action had had a minimal effect on the highly automated exchanges selected as targets.

The campaign, during which the union paid normal wages to the 2,500 strikers, cost more than £2.5m and the union had by the start of this week already used an interest-free £500,000 loan from the Union of Communication Workers.

The union's conference decided last month not to defy recent labour legislation and the Government will view the union's decision as a victory in its programme to reduce the size and influence of the public sector.

Continued on page 2, col 2

Drink-drive loophole is blocked

By John Witherow

A potential loophole in the law which could have cleared thousands of motorists facing drink-drive charges and forced the police to revise their latest breath testing machines was blocked in the High Court yesterday.

The divisional court overturned a finding by magistrates in Basingstoke, Hampshire, that the print-out from a Lion Intoximeter 3000 machine was not admissible in drink-driving cases.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled that the magistrates had been wrong to clear Mr Russell Marlow, aged 26, an engineer, of driving with excess alcohol. The magistrates' court decided that the print-out, which had shown Mr Marlow to have been three times over the legal limit, was inadmissible as a statement because it was not intelligible to the average person.

that the matter was of sufficient public importance.

The Hampshire police appeal against the magistrates' ruling has led to thousands of drink-drive cases being adjourned and an increase in the number of motorists pleading not guilty. Many of these cases will now be heard and, no doubt, pleas will be changed.

The High Court ruling will be particularly welcomed by the police as they launch their Christmas campaign against drink driving and driving.

The Royal Automobile Club said it was not surprised by the decision but was concerned over the accuracy of the Intoximeters, of which 665 have been distributed to 39 police forces since last May.

Lord Lane said that Mr Marlow, of Britten Road, Bexleyheath, had been stopped while driving his car on May 11 this year. A breath test on the



America to lift Argentine arms embargo

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Despite British misgivings, the Reagan Administration yesterday announced it was taking the necessary legal steps to end the five-year ban on US arms sales to Argentina.

The State Department said President Reagan would certify to Congress tomorrow that Argentina has made "dramatic progress" in human rights in the past year and a half and therefore the arms embargo imposed in 1978 could be lifted.

The certification has been deliberately timed to coincide with the inauguration of President Raúl Alfonsín in Buenos Aires. Vice-President George Bush is to attend the inauguration ceremony of the democratically elected President.

British diplomats reacted cautiously to yesterday's announcement and expressed the hope that any arms sales would only involve spare parts and defensive equipment.

They recalled that last month Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, said the US would not provide sophisticated equipment which could be used to attempt a new invasion of the Falkland Islands.

The State Department spokesman himself pointed out that the US has traditionally never been a major supplier of arms to Argentina.

The terms in which yesterday's announcement was couched went some way to allay British fears about a resumption of arms sales to Argentina, which attacked the Falklands last year.

British objections to US arms sales had been frequently voiced during the past year, most particularly by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Continued on back page, col 1

British Government kept in picture

By Julian Heslop, Political Editor

British ministers were wholly untroubled last night by the expected news that Argentina had been re-certified as a potential purchaser of United States arms.

But because they are aware of public anxiety about the Falklands and more generally about the present state of relations between Washington and London, they went out of their way to emphasize that in this area at least the Administration had been exemplary in consulting them.

A lengthy statement from Downing Street pointed out that re-certification did not mean that arms sales were either in the pipeline or planned in any way, and was not equivalent to arms sales.

There was a "wide gap" between agreeing certification which would allow arms to be sold and actually reaching any agreement on arms sales themselves.

Government cuts drug firms profits in £100m NHS savings package

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government announced yesterday cuts in the profits drug companies can make from the National Health Service and reductions in permissible spending on advertising and promotion.

They will produce savings of more than £100m a year on the NHS drugs bill, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said.

The cuts were condemned as unnecessarily harsh by the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry, which said that they were likely to damage the industry's ability to produce new products.

But Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's spokesman on health, said that they were inadequate responses, and still left the companies with a "license to print money".

Under the package announced by Mr Clarke, the target-rate of profit companies are allowed to make will be cut from 25 to 21 per cent from April 1, saving £40m on the total bill in England of £1,250m.

Also, the "grey area" by which companies are allowed to make higher profits of up to 10 per cent will be reduced.

Drug companies' spending on

promotion, which is now about £180m a year and largely funded by NHS sales, is also to be cut.

It will be reduced from 10 per cent of turnover to 9 per cent from 1983/86. Spending above that level will have to be paid back – in effect a fine on promotional overspending.

When fully implemented that should cut promotional expenditure by 25 per cent, Mr Clarke said.

In a full year the measures will produce savings on the NHS drugs bill rising on present estimates from £65m in 1984/5 to well over £100m in later years.

"This compares with the industry's total profits from sales in the UK in 1983 of an estimated £200m. The changes will mean that the price freeze on drugs introduced in August as part of the £25m savings agreed then will continue, with few exceptions, through 1984/5 and beyond."

The Government has decided against allowing pharmacists to substitute cheaper, unbranded drugs for brand name products when dispensing prescriptions, unless the family doctor specifies so. Such a move was

recommended in the Greenfield Report published earlier this year, which it has been estimated could save another £5m to £30m.

Mr Clarke said such a measure would lead to divisions in responsibility for the treatment between family doctors and pharmacists and raised "serious practical problems".

Mr Meacher described the decision as owing more "to the arm twisting of the drug companies than to the concern at the general practitioners behind who Mr Clarke seeks to hide".

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry said that the cuts were "unnecessarily harsh and against the long-term interests of the UK".

Some multinational drug companies were likely to reconsider investing in Britain it said. "The cuts are likely to damage seriously the innovative and export capacity of the industry, currently producing a balance of payments surplus of £600m per annum, and one of the world leaders in pharmaceutical research."

Staff vote of no confidence at Sellafield

The 900 engineering workers at the Sellafield (formerly Windscale) Nuclear Fuels in Cumbria have passed a vote of no confidence in the management because of the contamination incidents in which radioactive material was discharged into the Irish Sea.

Mr Leo Goldsworthy, district organizer for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, confirmed yesterday that a mass meeting of union members earlier this week had voted to condemn the way in which the company had kept workers informed about developments.

No further industrial action is planned by the engineering workers, who complained that they read about the incidents in the press almost at the same time as they were being told about them by the company.

A delegation of union members from Sellafield is to meet Dr John Cunningham, Labour MP for Copeland and Labour spokesman on the environment, today.

A spokesman for the engineering workers said that the latest incident had been so serious that it required assurances in the best interests of the nuclear industry and the public. "We are very unhappy over the management's handling of this business", he said.

British Nuclear Fuels refused to comment on the vote because it was an internal industrial relations matter.

Mr Wedgwood Benn claimed at the Sizewell B inquiry yesterday that "every British nuclear power station has become a nuclear bomb factory for the United States".

Mr Benn, a former energy minister, was giving evidence on day 150 of the hearing at the Shape Maltings in Suffolk into the Central Electricity Generating Board's proposal to build an American-style pressurized water reactor (PWR). He suggested that military requirements coloured the board's plans.

The inquest into the death of Mr Dennis Skinner, the British banker who died in a mysterious fall in Moscow, after telling diplomats that he would take part in a public funeral.

Two men were arrested yesterday in violent scuffles by the coffin of an Irish National Liberation Army terrorist when the police moved in to prevent a public funeral.

Last month the south London coroner, Dr Mary McHugh, announced after considerable delay that the inquest would be held in secret on December 20. Yesterday she issued a statement saying it would be in public.

Her earlier decision caused some surprise because the Foreign Office had said it saw no reason for the inquest to be held in secret. The *Observer* newspaper had also taken out a High Court injunction to prevent the secret hearing.

Mr McHugh, said last night that she had changed her mind "because the establishment feels it would be more in their interests if it was held in public".

The family of the dead man had not wanted a paramilitary funeral.



Royal portrait: A detail from Bryan Organ's study of the Duke of Edinburgh which was unveiled at the National Portrait Gallery in London yesterday. Commissioned by the gallery, the portrait, which is acrylic on canvas, is the first painting of the Duke to join a national collection.

Inquest on banker to be public

By John Witherow

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Arrests at funeral of INLA man

From Richard Ford Belfast

Two men were arrested yesterday in violent scuffles by the coffin of an Irish National Liberation Army terrorist when the police moved in to prevent a public funeral.

A strong police and army presence surrounded the Bawnmore estate in north Belfast of Joseph Craven, aged 27, who was shot by the Protestant Action Force. At one stage his family refused to let the police move in to prevent a public funeral.

After negotiations with a priest the coffin was carried to a waiting hearse. It was draped with the Irish tricolour and Starry Plough, flag of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. The dead man's black gloves and belt, which were on top, were removed by a senior police officer.

The family of the dead man had not wanted a paramilitary funeral.

Two views of 'The Day After'

A gruesome portrait of nuclear disaster

By David Hewson

The film *The Day After*, which will be shown on independent television at 9.30pm tomorrow, plots the fictional aftermath of a nuclear catastrophe in a small town in Kansas.

ABC, the American makers, say the film is apolitical, and based on scientific fact.

The prelude to the dropping of the bomb on Kansas City, 36 miles from Lawrence, where the drama was filmed, takes about a third of the running time.

It depicts a worsening international situation in which West Berlin is blockaded. War breaks out in Europe and three tactical nuclear weapons are exploded over advancing Soviet troops. Kansas City was chosen as the focus for the film because it is in the centre of the United States and the presence of missile silos make it a prime target.

Citizens are advised to go to municipal shelters, and a panic for food and supplies develops. The launch of the American missiles is followed by a four-minute sequence showing the mushroom clouds of the attacking Soviet warheads.

The holocaust shatters the fabric of the town's society, leading to looting and chaos in which firing squads execute thieves without trial. The rest of the drama concerns the attempts of a doctor, played by Jason Robards, to help stricken people before he falls victim to radiation sickness.

The makers say that it was thoroughly researched to make the result as accurate as possible. Most of the effects in the holocaust sequence, such as the launching of the American Minuteman missiles and the mushrooming nuclear explosions, come from stock film.

A nine-day wonder like soap opera

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The silence is profound. Two weeks ago there was national controversy in the United States as politicians, pundits, lobbyists and the public had their say about *The Day After*. While the hallaloo rage, newspapers and television were full of comment about the programme. Then, quite suddenly, it went away... a nine-day wonder.

For several days before the programme was shown – a hundred million Americans watched it – there was a phenomenal surge of publicity.

Americans were given a warning that the film would be harrowing; telephone hotlines were set up to comfort the distressed; parents were told of the dangers of allowing children to watch people arranged to see it in groups. It was even reported that the television company president had wept at the preview.

The White House grew jittery, fearing that emotional reaction could damage President Reagan, his defence policies and his chances of reelection.

In the event, the film was bathetic. It has been criticized as a mere horror film heavily promoted to improve the ratings and income of the television company.

For all its soap opera quality *The Day After* had a considerable impact, partly because of the publicity buildup, which meant that by the time the film was shown the country was aghast.

Many Americans felt

Overseas selling prices

£2.75 Canada \$1.50 Canada \$600 miles
Denmark Dkr 8.00 Finland Mark 8.00
France F 1000 Germany DM 1000
Greece Dr 1000 Holland G 3.250 Italy
Iceland ISK 1000 Ireland £1.00
Norway Kr 7.00 Portugal Pta 120 Portugal
Spain Pta 1200 Sweden Kr 8.000 Switzerland S Fr 3.000
UK £1.00 USA \$1.00 Yugoslavia Dm 100

Sports Aid Foundation APPRECIATION

THE GOVERNORS of Sports Aid Foundation wish to express publicly their appreciation to the following donors for each contributing £2,500 or more to become Benefactors of the Foundation:

- Amateur Athletic Association
- Barratt Developments PLC
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- Watney Mann & Truman Brewers Ltd

Sports Aid Foundation is a national non-profit making organisation approved by the Government to raise funds for helping Britain's top amateur sporting competitors with the cost of training for Olympic Games, World and European Championships.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said of Sports Aid Foundation when launching this Benefactors scheme: "I think you are doing a fantastic job, I think it is very remarkable that since the Foundation was formed in 1976, Britain has won more and more gold medals and we do congratulate you."

A Sports Aid Foundation Benefactor can be an individual or a company. To become a Benefactor, or to help in any other way, please contact Mr Paul Zetter CBE, Chairman of SAF's Board of Governors.

Sports Aid Foundation, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1H 0DN. 01-387 9380.

Safety device could have saved 92 lives

By William Norris and David Cross in London and Richard Wigg in Madrid



Ground radar that could have prevented the Madrid crash

collision – a system so sensitive it can detect a rabbit on the runway.

The system, which costs £200,000, is manufactured by Racial Avionics. It or similar devices are installed at Heathrow, Amsterdam, Paris, Frankfurt, Rome and Prague. One is under construction at Gatwick.

The device means all vehicles

Spanish Air Crashes since 1977

Date	Location	Aircraft	Dead
March 77	Tenerife	747/747	585
April 80	Tenerife	727	145
Sept 82	Malaga	DC 10	53
Nov 83	Madrid	747	181
Dec 83	Madrid	727/DC 9	92

Total: 1,047

Worldwide, in 1982, 883 people died in scheduled airline disasters.

pilots' association, and promises of action in 1976 and 1979, nothing has been done.

After an incident in 1981, when an Iberia Boeing 727 and a foreign airline's Boeing 707 almost collided on the runway in fog, the pilots complained again. Seven months later, the authorities again promised action, with the same result.

There is still no sign of action. Senior Pedro Tena, Director of Civil Aviation, maintained yesterday that Barajas did not need ground radar since the airport was affected by fog on only four days a year.

It is the final responsibility of the pilot to decide whether conditions are safe for take-off. But if flying is authorized by the control tower and other aircraft are operating there is considerable pressure on him

to continue.

Despite being short of time

(he had only two minutes left for his last five moves) Ribli played the attack well and Smyslov had to play accurately to avoid a loss. Nevertheless, with some excellent counter-strokes he obtained a drawn position and the game was agreed a draw after 41 moves.

The score now is: Smyslov 5.

Ribli 3.

Eighth game

White Ribli, Black Smyslov

QGD Slav Defence, Schlechter variation

1 P-Q4 P-Q5 2 R-KB1 R-KB1

3 P-K4 P-K5 4 P-Q3 P-Q3

5 P-K5 P-K5 6 P-Q4 P-Q4

7 Q-Q2 Q-Q2 8 P-Q3 P-Q3

9 P-K4 P-K4 10 P-Q4 P-Q4

11 P-K5 P-K5 12 P-Q4 P-Q4

13 P-K4 P-K4 14 P-Q4 P-Q4

15 P-Q3 P-Q3 16 P-Q4 P-Q4

17 P-Q4 P-Q4 18 P-Q4 P-Q4

19 P-Q4 P-Q4 20 P-Q4 P-Q4

21 P-Q4 P-Q4 22 R-B6 R

Trafalgar Square fountain revels banned to improve new year safety

Tough safety measures to prevent a repeat of the new year crowd hysteria in Trafalgar Square 12 months ago in which two women died were announced yesterday by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

The traditional frolics in the fountains will be banned and Scotland Yard has said that if the crowd gets too big the police may take action.

Mr Brittan, in a written Commons answer, gave an eight-point plan to allow revelers to celebrate the new year in safety.

All Trafalgar Square fountains will be drained and the main ones boarded up to stop people climbing up them.

Electronic visual display boards will be installed to flash messages and crowd control instructions to revelers.

Publicity will remind people of the dangers and encourage them not to drink too much and to behave sensibly.

British Rail will run extra trains in the early hours to cut the risk of a last-minute dash for home.

First-aid facilities will be improved and telephone links

only. Mr Robert

the former Under Secretary of State, said that he would be in discussion.

He has accepted an invitation from TV-2 to appear on Sunday to David Frost.

Mr Maitland, the Minister for Education and Science, is to attempt to show the effects of smoking on the health of smokers and a member of the Green Party, Mr Peter Brooke, is delivering a speech of support to Mr Maitland.

Mr Maitland said that the film had been made for the particular issue to show the public what was being done to improve the health of smokers.

The so-called Great Debate might well end up as a joke, Miss Diana Warwick, the association's general secretary, said.

The Government's predictions are questioned on two grounds: that they take no account of the rising birth rate in social classes I and II who,

are the main source of the

newly-weds.

The association's general secretary, Mr Peter Brooke, said:

"The AUT asks why did the DES not recognize these trends? Why is the DES apparently satisfied with arbitrary judgments?

"The answers to these questions may be embarrassing for the Government but it would be for the nation if adequate provision for future university education is not made", the document says.

It throws into question the government policy, which assumes that institutions will have to contract or close over the next decade, was published yesterday in a document, *The Real Demand for Student Places*, by the Association of University Teachers, representing 34,000 academics.

The association's other argument for maintaining and expanding the university system is Britain's need for a skilled and educated workforce for economic recovery. It will be pursuing its challenge to the Government's figures with Mr Peter Brooke, the minister responsible for higher education.

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The document has been sent to the Prime Minister, MPs, and all university vice-chancellors and principals. Mr Giles Radice, Labour spokesman on education, said yesterday that

More university places needed, not fewer, teachers say

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Statisticians at the Department of Education and Science were accused yesterday of getting their sums wrong on future university student numbers. Instead of falling by 20 per cent between now and 1984, they would rise over the next six years and then level off.

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MPs criticize DHSS for not knowing level of social security fraud

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Severe criticism of the Department of Health and Social Security for being unable to assess how much is being lost in social security frauds and uncollected National Insurance contributions has come from the Commons public accounts committee.

An estimate by a DHSS economic adviser that £500m a year might be being lost was dismissed by Sir Geoffrey Otto, second permanent secretary at the department, as hypothetical, in evidence to the committee.

He told the committee that a Rayner scrutiny estimate that 8 per cent of claimants were working might be too high.

But the committee says: "Whilst DHSS suspected that there was a good deal of undetected fraud, they had no enthusiasm for attempting to guess how much they were allowing to get away."

While noting that most detected fraud is for small sums, special claims control investigations "appear to indicate that a good deal of undiscovered fraud exists", the committee says.

"We are surprised at DHSS's attitude to the paucity of information on the extent of undetected fraud."

The large gaps in the department's knowledge mean it lacks a satisfactory basis for

deploying staff on anti-fraud activities, and until random sampling of claimants, recommended by the Fisher Committee in 1973, or an alternative system is introduced, "it appears to us that... it will remain uncertain how far discovered benefit fraud represents the measure of the whole problem."

While the department argues that random sampling would involve the investigation of people about whom there was no suspicion, the committee says that such an approach could hardly be more objectionable than the present system where some investigations are launched on the basis of anonymous letters.

"Overall we do not find at all satisfactory the present situation on the DHSS's attitude on the lack of firm information on the extent of benefit fraud."

The department has estimated that increased anti-fraud activity since 1980 had produced savings in two years of £388m, but there had been criticism that the figure was exaggerated, the committee says.

It also gives a warning that the abandonment in 1982 of the Camelot computerized system for paying benefits meant that new computerized systems would not come in until 1986 at the earliest.



Crime fighters: Mr Brian Hayes, chief constable of the Surrey police force which pioneered the use of police dogs in this country, with his latest recruit, Una, an alsatian aged three months. He will take charge of her early training.

Astronauts to test 'Buck Roger's jet'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The first jet pack for propelling astronauts about in space Buck Roger-style will be tested in orbit next month.

If successful, it will be used later in the year by an astronaut repair spacecraft, the solar maximum satellite, so it can resume monitoring flares and variations in particles emitted by the Sun, which influence the Earth's climate and radio communications.

A description of the back pack was given by Mr C. J. Meechan, vice-president for strategic planning, North American space operations, Rockwell International, California, which built the Space Shuttle, to a meeting of the Royal Society in London yesterday.

After reviewing the achievements of the Shuttle, Mr Meechan outlined progress on other projects for launching new types of satellites, the first large optical telescope (in 1986), orbiting laboratories and, by the early 1990s, large permanent space platforms.

But each goal had first to be backed by new equipment and methods for working and manoeuvring in space, he said. Those technologies were being tested in the early Shuttle flights.

Footballer found gassed

Robert Wilson, aged 22, the Fulham footballer, and his wife Lesley were seriously ill with carbon monoxide poisoning yesterday after being gassed in the house that they moved into less than a month ago.

The couple were found unconscious at their semi-detached house in Woosnall, near Wokingham, Berkshire, early yesterday, by Mr Charles Grumbley, Mr Wilson's uncle.

It is believed that they had lain unconscious for up to 24 hours.

He failed to revive them and they were taken to the intensive care unit of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, in Reading.

Southern Gas said yesterday: "We did not install any of this equipment but we have been called in by the police to carry out a full investigation."



Robert Wilson: Seriously ill

Newspaper complaints rejected

Complaints against two local newspapers are rejected by the Press Council today.

The *Lincolnshire Standard* had been accused by Mr T. G. B. Barnes, a defeated Boston Council election candidate of influencing an election by publishing an early report and photographs of his rivals on polling day.

But the editor, Mr George Wheatman, said the report of a pavement debate between Mr Barnes' rivals had nothing to do with the election. His newspaper did not take sides.

In the other case, the *Hornsey Journal* had been accused of conspiracy with a ratepayer who emptied a bag of rubbish on a council official's desk.

Mr Nicholas Windrum, editor of the *Hornsey Journal*, said the editor had been granted access to the office only because a receptionist recognized the journalist with him. Their presence induced Mr Windrum to do what he did.

Mr Michael Pearce, the editor, said his staff had simply recorded the event. They would not otherwise have got the story because of a council boycott of the newspaper.

Grant for railway study

The English Tourist Board has agreed to contribute £4,000 towards a study of Carlisle-Selby railway line which is threatened with closure.

The survey, which started on Monday, has been commissioned by a steering committee from Cumbria, West Yorkshire and Lancashire county councils and will cost £22,000.

The Cumbria Tourist Board asked the English Tourist Board for a financial contribution because it wanted to emphasize the line's potential for tourism. It felt that the

Social trends: 2

More children gain O levels and go on to college

By Lucy Hedges
Education Correspondent

More boys and girls are passing O levels at school than they did 10 years ago, with girls doing better than boys at English and boys doing better in mathematics, physics and chemistry.

According to figures in *Social Trends*, 55 per cent of school-leavers in Britain had more than one O level pass (grade A to C) in 1981-82 compared with 50 per cent in 1973-74. In the 10 years between 1970-71 and 1981-82 the proportion of boys leaving school with O level passes in English, mathematics, physics or chemistry increased by 3, 4, 6 and 4 percentage points respectively. Among girls the corresponding increases were 7, 7, 4 and 4 percentage points.

The figures were as follows:

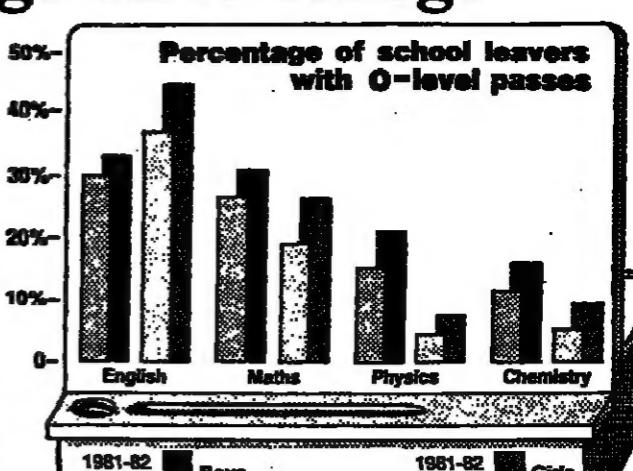
	Boys	Girls		
70-71	81-82	70-71	81-82	
Eng	30	33	37	44
Maths	27	31	19	26
Phys	15	21	4	8
Chem	11	15	5	9

In the six years from 1976 to 1982, there was a 19 per cent drop in primary pupil numbers because of the decline in the birth rate, and numbers are expected to fall by a further 15 per cent by 1991. That will lead to a further 5 per cent drop in primary rolls and to a 25 per cent fall in secondary rolls.

The figures show that there has been an improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio from 20.2 to 19.0 pupils per teacher between 1976 and 1982. They also show that education increases a person's earning power, and that nearly half of all college students in 1981-82 had fathers in the professional and managerial and managers socio-economic groups.

Social Trends 14, Central Statistical Office (Stationery Office, £19.95).

Percentage of school leavers with O-level passes



Most secondary school children now go to comprehensives. In 1971 38 per cent went to comprehensives, but by 1982 it was 55 per cent in England and more than 96 per cent in Scotland and Wales.

The number of pupils staying into the sixth form has increased, from 27.5 per cent in 1975-76 to 29 per cent in 1980-81. The number going on to further and higher education has also risen, from 22.5 per cent in 1980-81 to 28 per cent in 1981-82.

Nearly a third of girls leaving school in 1981-82 went on to further or higher education, compared with just under a quarter of boys. The trend for more school-leavers to go on to full-time further education is probably associated with rises in

unemployment among young people", the report said.

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Tomorrow: Housing

Vernons and Restormel Borough used it carefully!

... and as a result, they're the winners of this year's Gas Energy Management Awards for industry and commerce.

Every year the gas people present these awards to those organisations which, working in partnership with the Technical Consultancy Service engineers of their Gas Region, are judged to have made the most significant contribution to energy conservation.

GEM Award for Industry.

Vernon & Company (Pulp Products) Ltd, of Bolton, produce a range of high quality disposable items for hospitals under the brand name of Vernaid.

They are made by an ingenious process using reclaimed cellulose fibre derived from newspapers!

Energy used for drying accounts for 20% of Vernon's product costs, so they are very energy-conscious and, working closely with the engineers from the North West Gas Technical Consultancy Service, have adopted a wide range of energy management ideas which have resulted in a 25% fuel saving.

A further TCS project is

being considered which could lead to even greater savings.

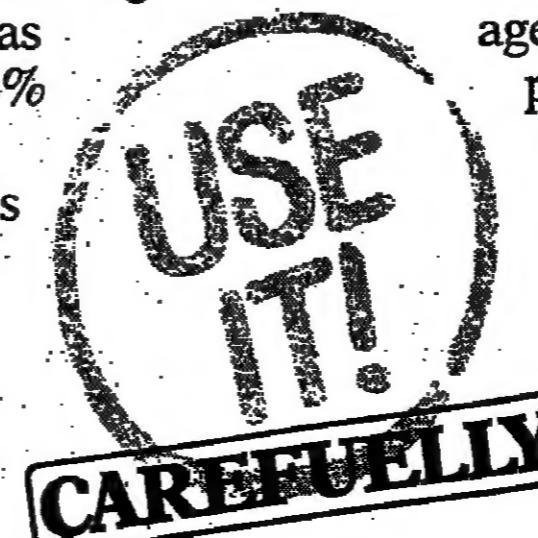
GEM Award for Commerce.

At St Austell, in Cornwall, in the Borough of Restormel is the Polkyth Leisure Centre. It is a multi-purpose sports complex built in 1974/75 and includes a swimming-pool, squash courts, general sports hall, sauna and solarium.

Naturally, a lot of energy is used here, and the Borough Council, being cost-conscious, consulted the Technical Consultancy Service Engineers at South West Gas about the recovery of waste heat. Several schemes were considered and a gas engine-driven heat pump was installed which, with other measures, has resulted in an overall saving of 72%.

Profit from our experience.

If these high efficiency achievements interest you, you owe it to yourself, and your shareholders or ratepayers, to find out more. For details of these and other case histories from the Gas Energy Management Awards, write to the gas people - British Gas, Technical Consultancy Service, 326 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PT.



Gas

WONDERFUEL GAS - FROM THE GAS PEOPLE

Israelis find six reasons to justify their policy of getting tough with Syria

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Yitshak Shamir's Government is basing its new hard-line military policy in Lebanon – particularly the renewal of bombing raids – on the central assumption that Syria has recently lost its initiative there.

In an interview with *The Times*, a senior official with close links to Mr Shamir gave a warning that any withdrawal of the European contingents of the peacekeeping force in Beirut would be seen as "appeasement" of Syria and would lead automatically to greater instability and more bloodshed.

He outlined six reasons why the Government believes Syria has lost the upper hand and can be more easily persuaded by a tough military policy to rethink its refusal to contemplate withdrawing its forces. He said that all of them were shared by the Reagan Administration and had been discussed extensively during the recent Washington summit.

The reasons given were:

• President Assad's serious illness. Israeli intelligence is now "more or less certain" he suffered a severe heart attack, with complications from diabetes and a probable blood clot in the head. The official said President Assad was being treated by a leading neurologist as well as a cardiologist.

Four agree to keep troops in Lebanon

From Ian Murray
Brussels

The urgent need to pool the information collected by the four countries making up the multinational "peacekeeping" force in Lebanon, was agreed by the foreign ministers of the US, Italy, France and Britain when they met over breakfast in Brussels yesterday. The view put forward by Sir Geoffrey Howe was that they could all do more behind the scenes at the political level to try to bring about a reconciliation between the different factions in the country. It was also agreed that the security interests of Syria had to be protected.

At the same time, under strong pressure from the Americans, the Italians promised to maintain their force at present levels, although it was clear that Signor Giulio Andreotti, Foreign Minister, wanted some to be withdrawn.

"I think that we can and must return to the initial agreements with the Lebanese Government," he said later. "Those agreements are about 1,100 Italian troops in Beirut. Now we have doubled that number. But the withdrawal has to be done in the light of the new situation in Sabra and Chatila and in the light of the Lebanese reconciliation process. Italy does not want to be responsible for failure of the Geneva talks."

The ministers did not, however, talk about withdrawal, their spokesmen insisted afterwards, and M Claude Chevallon, the French Minister, said: "It would be completely wrong on our part to reduce our involvement while there is hope that the Geneva reconciliation talks can succeed."

It was the first time the four ministers had got together to discuss the Lebanon since their meeting in Paris on October 27.

They used the occasion to emphasize that the mission was a peaceful one with the twofold objective of helping reconciliation in the Lebanon and securing the withdrawal of all foreign forces. The intention was "to de-escalate and not re-escalate the violence" in the words of an American official.

As far as reconciliation was concerned, "there has been some movement, but we want to see more." The ministers felt "this was a two-way street." Although they wanted the government to act "there are other players and there is as much for them to move."

In this context, the Americans agreed that the different countries in the multinational force had contacts "with different factions and different players." It was vital that they should pool their information so that they could have a better chance of helping the reconciliation process.

Gemayel will spend two days in London

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon will pay his first official visit to this country on December 13 and 14, Downing Street announced yesterday. He is coming at the invitation of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who will host a luncheon at Number 10 during talks on the Lebanon crisis next Wednesday. The president will also see Sir Geoffrey Howe at the Foreign Office, but it is not yet known which, if any, other Beirut ministers will be accompanying him.

• The fact that Syria discovered at the Geneva conference that the Lebanese Salvation Front was not standing behind the United States and the stringent denials from Jerusalem and Washington of any collusion over last weekend's air raids.

• Information that the Soviet Union has recently told Syria it does not want the renewal of full-scale warfare in Lebanon or the breakdown of the Geneva conference. Israel concluded that Russia's stand has reduced the chances of global conflict erupting in the region. President Andropov's illness is regarded as a key reason for the Soviet call for restraint.

• The Syrians had not realized that President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon would stand up so resolutely against its demand for abrogation of the May 17 Israel-Lebanon pact.

• The Syrians were also taken back by the recent resumption of Israeli air attacks in Lebanon. "For months they believed that we would not retaliate because they did not think the Israeli public would wear it," the official told me. "They now know differently."

• The "very tough stand" taken by the Americans whom the Israeli Cabinet believes are no longer afraid to stand up to the Arab world, largely because of the blunting of the oil weapon.

The official argued that there

refused to confirm or deny whether it was carrying nuclear weapons.

Invincible had been engaged in exercises with elements of the Royal Australian Navy and developed a vibration problem in its starboard propeller.

According to military experts here, both the Druze and Palestinians have recently lost much of their motivation for fighting as Syrian proxies against Israel – the Druze because they have achieved their objective of control in the Chouf mountains, and the Palestinians because of the bitter fighting inside the PLO.

One plan would involve moving the Marines south of the airport along the road to Tyre where they would be away from the factional strife of Beirut. They could also be based on amphibious vessels, sending in small units for short tours of duty to maintain a visible presence.

A Pentagon spokesman yesterday said there was no question of withdrawing the Marines altogether. There are almost 2,000 in Beirut as part of the multinational peacekeeping force.

Marines may move to safer ground

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Pentagon is preparing to move US Marines from Beirut Airport either to safer ground in Lebanon or to amphibious ships off the coast, according to reports yesterday in several American newspapers.

The *New York Times* said the plan was still being worked out by the joint chiefs of staff and had not yet been presented to the National Security Council. However, the Administration is expected to welcome any workable suggestions to improve the safety of the Marines.

Washington has been weighing various options since the bombing of the Marine headquarters on October 23, which resulted in 24 deaths. A further eight Marines were killed when

their positions were shelled after last Sunday's air raid by US jets against targets in Syrian-occupied Lebanon.

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Nato analyses nuclear chess game strategy

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

There was no great sense of surprise or excitement among Nato Foreign Ministers when they learnt of the way the Soviet Union had abruptly ended the strategic arms talks in Geneva. "They have not walked out of the talks, they have simply not given a date when they will be resumed. They will be back," That is how British sources summed up the latest move by the Soviet Union in the diplomatic chess game over nuclear disarmament.

The ministers were meeting in Brussels for the Nato Council and the current state of East-West relations was top of the agenda for their long restricted session. Behind closed doors they were analysing the present Soviet strategy in the wake of the first deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe, when news arrived from Geneva of the Soviet delegation's move.

The session authorized the publication of a 49-page document which tells the story from

Yesterday's men (from left): Galtieri, Lami Dozo, Videla and Massera.

From heroes to villains

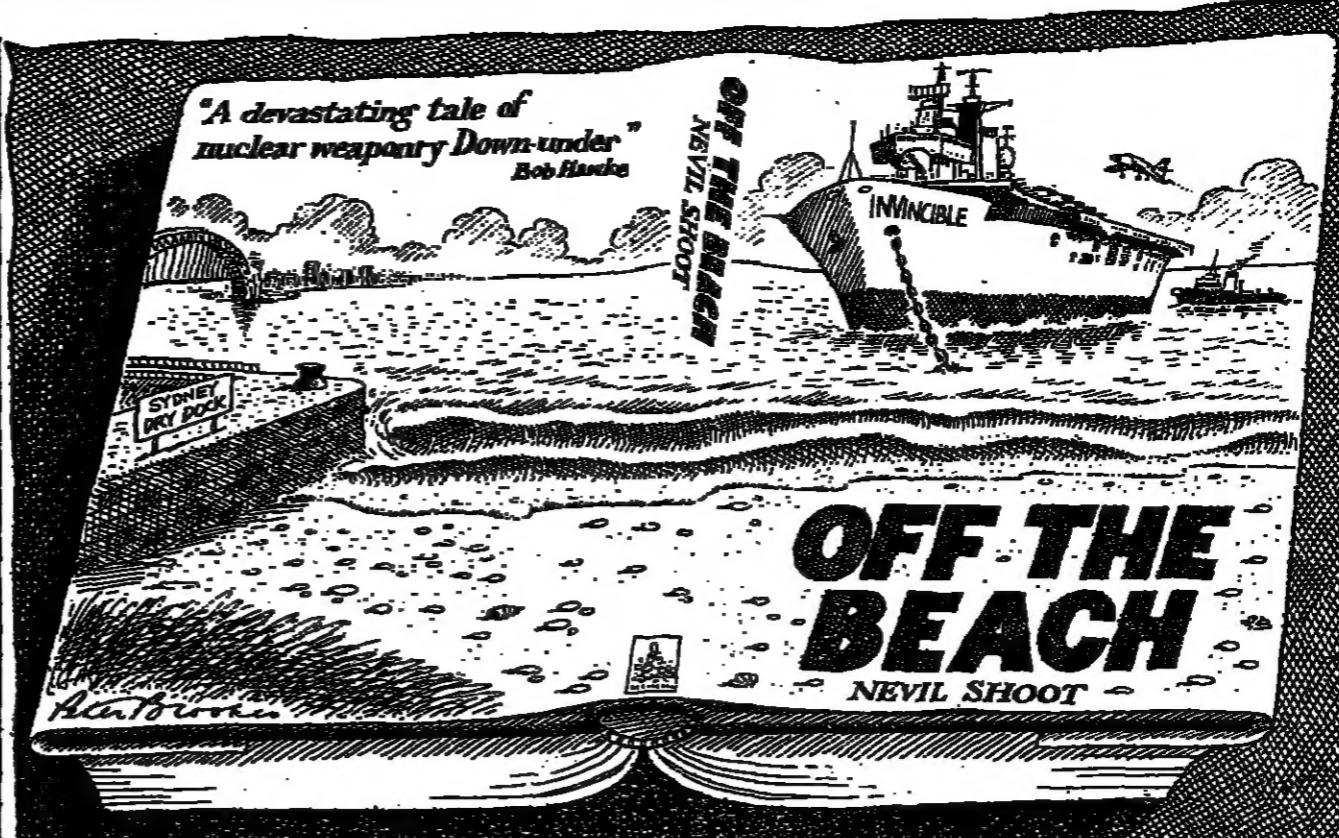
Junta limps off the stage

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The military Government which slipped out of power in virtual disgrace this week had the tacit if not open support of those Argentines who, it is now clear, overthrew President Mame Estela Peron in March 1976 and started a "process of national reorganization".

The Peronist administration had been such a shambles that most breathed a sigh of relief when the three-man junta which had seized power stated its objectives to end corruption, to strengthen the economy and to end terrorism.

Seven years and four military juntas later, the "process" is in full retreat. Five of the 12 officers who were in the junta at one time or another are on trial, countless other officers have been charged with corruption, the economy is groaning under an unpayable \$40bn (£27bn) foreign debt and inflation is



Sydney turns away damaged Invincible

From Tony Duboulin
Melbourne

The Australian Government has denied the British aircraft carrier HMS Invincible access to the Royal Australian Navy Dockyard at Garden Island in Sydney harbour because it

refused to confirm or deny whether it was carrying nuclear weapons.

Invincible had been engaged in exercises with elements of the Royal Australian Navy and developed a vibration problem in its starboard propeller.

British naval divers were seen going down to inspect the propeller.

Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister, said it was not allowed nuclear arms on Australian soil.



Balled out: Belgian referee Alfons Poumet and riot police sprinting from the field in Milan under a hail of stones hurled by the angry crowd whose team, Internazionale, had just lost 2-3 in an UEFA Cup match with Austria Vienna.

Russia goes to brink on Olympics

From Our Correspondent, California

After a week in California, the Russians still refuse to say for sure whether they are definitely coming to the July 1984 Olympic Games.

Marat Gramov, the Soviet Sports Minister and chairman of the National Olympic Committee, revealed that the Russians will leave it to the last possible legal minute to decide – about May 28, or two months before the Games are due to start.

Mr Gramov said: "We do not see any reasons why the Soviet team would stay away from the Games."

In the caucuses debate on the question of an oath, or pledge, Mr West recommended that a pledge only be allowed, but he still faced opposition. Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, indicated that he supported retention of the oath. Mr Hawke is the son of a cobbler, though he is now a professional agnostic.

The main thrust of the Citizenship Act is to confirm an Australian identity. Mr West said that abolition of the reference to the Queen was designed to end concern felt by many people at swearing allegiance to an overseas sovereign.

He said that the decision was taken after consultations begun by the previous Government and was designed to reflect that Australia was an independent nation. The new "pledge of Australian citizenship", in both pledge and oath forms, calls for renouncing citizenship and allegiance to any state other than Australia.

The amendments were outlined by Mr Stewart West, Minister for Immigration, in October. They will not come into force until next year.

Australia to ditch Queen but not God

From Our Correspondent, Melbourne

There may be no place for the Queen in the proposed oath of allegiance for intending new Australian citizens, but there is still a place for God.

A move on Tuesday in the parliamentary caucus of the ruling Labour Party to allow people seeking citizenship to make a pledge rather than an oath was soundly defeated. The caucus opted instead to offer a choice of pledge or oath.

Under amendments to the Citizenship Act, introduced into the Federal Parliament on Wednesday night, reference to the Queen will be deleted. The qualifying period for citizenship reduced from three years' residence in the previous eight years to two years in the previous five, a right of appeal established, the English-language requirement eased, and British subject status scrapped.

The amendments were outlined by Mr Stewart West, Minister for Immigration, in October. They will not come into force until next year.

Human rights mothers look to Alfonsin

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Relatives of more than 7,000 Argentines who have disappeared under the military rule gathered yesterday for the last human rights demonstration before Señor Raul Alfonsin takes office as president.

The march was organized by the mothers of Plaza De Mayo, a group of women who have staged weekly demonstrations in front of Government House to demand information about their missing children from the military government.

One of the mothers said yesterday: "Next Thursday we will demonstrate under President Alfonsin. We are confident that under a civilian government the courts will begin acting properly."

Human rights groups have documented more than 7,000 cases of people who disappeared after being kidnapped by government security forces and secret death squads.

UN seeks assurance on E African refugees

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The United Nations and some Western states are pressuring Kenya and Tanzania to improve the status of political refugees, following the recent forcible repatriation of some nationals of both countries.

Two officials of the UN High Commission for Refugees yesterday completed visits to both countries, during which they expressed concern to ministers and officials about the effect of a recent agreement that fugitive offenders will not be given asylum in another East African country.

Their visit follows reports here that the two self-confessed leaders of last year's Kenya coup attempt, who were granted political asylum in Tanzania, have been handed back to Kenya. They are Air Force Sergeant Hezekiah Ochuka and Sergeant Pancras Okumu.

In return, Kenya has handed over a Tanzanian airline pilot. This suggests that Britain will do nothing until the Community's money begins to run out. Then the EEC would be forced to reduce its agricultural payments and individual governments would start to make up the difference. At that point, the British Government could claim that the Community was no longer fulfilling its obligations, that the basic of community had been changed, and that Britain would therefore be justified in withholding its contributions.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

The most telling moment when Mrs Thatcher made her statement on the Athens summit to the House of Commons on Wednesday came when Mr Geoffrey Rippon agreed emphatically with the stand she had taken. The man who negotiated Britain's entry to the Community more than 10 years ago was accepting the policy which some people believe might take Britain out again.

It was a measure of the broad support that Mrs Thatcher enjoys on this issue, not just across party lines but also across the more significant division between European enthusiasts and critics. Dr Owen was unequivocal in the backing he offered on behalf of the SDP. The only important dissident was Mr Kinnoch, who misjudged not only the mood of the House of Commons but also the tactical situation.

There is no party political advantage to be derived from attacking Mrs Thatcher for the line she took in Brussels. The moment when she might become politically vulnerable will be if she makes concessions in order to do a deal. The best tactics for Mr Kinnoch would have been to congratulate her on her stand at Athens and to seek assurance that she would not in future deviate from the position she adopted there. She should have tried to do her ankles with his felicitations.

Two Britons disappear in Paris

Paris – The British Embassy

last night confirmed the disappearance of two British businessmen in Paris in the past week, but said it had no information about the circumstances (Diana Geddes writes).

Both were last seen on December 1 and were reported missing by their wives.

Mr Niall Campbell, aged 42, an ICI economic forecaster from Harrogate, left his papers and belongings in the Hotel Vernet.

Mr Robert Graham, aged 27, an accountant from London, left all his belongings at the Hotel Athens.

French lift curb on currency

Paris (AFP) – Controversial restrictions on currency for foreign travel introduced by France last March are to be lifted from December 20.

The restrictions were badly received by the public and travel agents protested that their businesses were at risk.

Crew rescued

Chandler, Quebec (AP) – A drifting Peruvian cargo ship, the Unisol, ran aground and split in two in stormy weather in the Gulf of St Lawrence, spilling an estimated 500 tons of heavy oil into the water. The crew of 35 was rescued by Canadian helicopters.

Monkeys saved

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) – Malaysia will stop exporting monkeys from next June because it discovered the animals are being used in nuclear tests and tortured. Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong took last year's exports.

Drugs seized

Cairo (Reuters) – Egyptian border police thwarted an attempt to smuggle by sea three tonnes of hashish and other drugs believed to be worth about £7m. The drugs were seized on a boat near Alexandria.

Bunny ban

Singapore (Reuters) – Singapore has banned bar girls from wearing bunny costumes and swimsuits, and ordered that they should wear uniforms instead. Dimly-lit bars must improve lighting.

Nakasone blow

Tokyo (Reuters) – A poll published 10 days before Japan's general election shows a sharp decline in support for Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone's Cabinet, down by 8 per cent since June.

Monkeys saved

London (AP) – The British people showed a double advantage. The British people showed in the general election campaign that they would prefer to remain in the Community. But they have no sentimental attachment to it.

Sainsbury's Vintage Selection.

It reads like the wine list in a good restaurant.

Until you come to the prices.



If you're a wine buff who's been buffeted by rising prices you'll welcome our Vintage Selection.

You'll find the quality familiar and the prices, quite often, nostalgic.

All thirty-one wines have been tasted and tested by our wine buyers, who have been working if you can call it work on this selection for 18 months. (Over 600 wines were considered.)

All of the wines are ready to drink now though some are suitable for laying down.

Many of them come with established reputations like the Puligny Montrachet or Château Grand Puy Ducasse.

Some are more unusual like the delicious dessert wine Moulin Touchais from the Loire - or our dry red wine from Portugal called Quinta Da Bacalhôa.

Many are virtually exclusive to Sainsbury's and all bear our Vintage Seal on the label.

You'll find the complete list in 60 of our largest stores and a further 160 stores will carry a good selection. If you discover some wines not on this list, don't worry, we're constantly adding to our selection and all the wines have been vetted.

We hope you'll enjoy reading about the wines below and that you'll be tempted to turn a wine list into something even more satisfying.

A shopping list.

1. Château Grand Puy Ducasse 1979 Pauillac. A classic Claret from one of the most important communes in the Médoc. Full bodied with good fruit and tannin this wine will develop over the next three or four years into a fine wine of distinction. £7.45.

2. Château Jean-Faure 1979 Grand Cru St. Emilion. Like all St. Emilians this wine will drink younger than the great growth clarets and is already soft and fruity. The 1979 is delightfully drinkable and offers, along with elegant medium weight, a bouquet with a hint of violets. £5.45.



3. Château de Poncier 1981 Fleurie. The true charm and distinction of one of the most delicate of the Beaujolais. Granite soil and the Gamay grape have combined in one of the more southerly Beaujolais Villages to produce a wine which is soft, fruity and delicately perfumed. Superb with cold meats or cheese - but many would say with anything. £4.35.

4. Château Tourteau Chollet 1980 Graves. Graves, a huge area of wine production to the south of Bordeaux is famed for its rich, slightly spicy red wines. Small proprietors abound in the area, producing wines which are firm when young and pay for keeping. Here is a pleasant fruity example of medium weight which will go happily with most meats or cheese. £3.60.

5. Château du Bousquet 1981 Côtes de Bourg. Less well known than the Médocs which lie opposite, the wines of the Côtes de Bourg offer excellent value for money. The best of the slopes, near the river, include the vines from which this splendid example is formed. Although it will keep, it can be enjoyed now. £3.20.

6. Gevrey Chambertin 1978. Amongst the richest and most enduring of all the great Burgundies, this full-bodied and powerful wine from the celebrated village on the slopes of the Côte de Nuits, will be enjoyed with the richer meats. £8.95.

7. Côte de Brouilly 1982. Produced on the granite soil of the most northerly of the nine nominated 'cru' villages which produce the best of the Beaujolais. Côte de Brouilly is fruity and fresh. £3.45.

8. Domaine André Brunel 1980 - Châteauneuf du Pape. Châteauneuf du Pape is recognised the world over as the finest of the southern Rhônes. Dark, strong and long-lived. This is a fine example from the rocky vineyard of one of the leading growers and two or three years more bottle age will improve it. £4.95.

9. Gigondas 1981. Like its more famous neighbour Châteauneuf du Pape, Gigondas is a deep, hearty, robust red wine, taking its character from the Grenache grapes which predominate in the blend. It will hold its own with game, roasts, casseroles and all cheese dishes. £4.35.

10. Château La Boie - Rhône 1982. This is the product of a vineyard which was totally replanted 20 years ago. (It has grown in reputation as a result) The presence of Syrah and Grenache in the blend gives the slight peppery sensation on the palate which is so characteristic of a Rhône wine. £2.99.



11. Château Barreyres 1979 Haut-Médoc. The Médoc, on the west bank of the river, is the most important red wine district of Bordeaux. Here, from just north of the Margaux, is an excellent fruity claret of medium weight, which has been made with great care and would even improve with a few years bottle age. £3.55.

12. Domaine du Colombier 1982 Chinon. Though less well-known there are some fine fresh light reds from the gravel soils of the Loire. This one has a distinct fruitiness and pleasant acidity. It is best drunk young and will happily accept a degree of chilling. £3.75.

13. Château de Gourgazaud 1980 or 1982 - Minervois. From the hilly country of the Languedoc-Roussillon but with more of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape than is usual. This makes for a distinctive medium-bodied wine of charm - robust enough for most meats and cheeses. £4.99. (Magnum)

14. Clos de La Mouchère 1980 or 1981 - Puligny Montrachet. Another great classic dry French white wine. Produced to the north of Meursault and lacking some of its softness it is, perhaps, the ultimate accompaniment to oysters but enhances any fish or white meat. £8.45.

15. Domaine De La Bizoëre 1982 Savenières. The white Anjou wines to the western end of the Loire Valley are characteristically dry and full-bodied - some say with the crispness of new apples. Here is a fine example, best drunk young and served chilled, it is slightly flowery with good acidity. £3.60.

16. Sancerre Les Pierres 1982. This was a good year in the Loire, where the Sauvignon grapes grown on limestone produce elegant, dry white wines. This fresh and fruity wine from Verdigny Commune is best drunk young and slightly chilled. £4.65.



17. Meursault Moillard 1980. Meursault's Pinot Chardonnay grapes provide some of the world's great white wines. Rich, smooth and dry, but mellow. This is a fine example, soft and full, which will mature and improve for two or three years. £6.95.

18. Moulin Touchais 1964 - Anjou. The valley of the Loire shelters the Chenin Blanc vines from which are made some exceptional white wines. In the limestone 'caves' at Doué la Fontaine lies a huge selection of some of France's best kept wine secrets. Moulin Touchais is one. The perfect dessert wine with plenty of fruit and a balanced sweetness best revealed when chilled. £5.75.

19. Château Tertre du Moulin 1982 Entre-deux-Mers. Between the 'two seas' of the Dordogne and the Garonne lies a vast area of wine production. The whites of this area are allowed the 'appellation'. Here is a crisp, fruity dry white wine from a grower with an established reputation for consistent quality. £2.75.

20. Clos St. Georges 1981 Graves Supérieures. Long before Graves was known for the red wines with which it is now most associated, it had a high reputation for sweet white wines. Clos St. Georges is found on the borders of Barsac. It has depth, style and length, which come through impressively on the palate. £2.99.

21. Château de Beaulieu 1980 Côteaux Du Layon. Beaulieu is one of only six communes in this sheltered area to the south of the Loire to be granted the appellation. This is an exceptional medium sweet white wine with lots of fruit and an acidity of considerable length which give it great style and depth. At its best lightly chilled with fresh fruit. £2.80.

22. Muscat de Beaumes-De-Venise. This is a naturally sweet white wine from the southern end of the Rhône Valley. The sun has ample time to develop the sugar and add a delicate perfume and flavour. A dessert wine of great distinction. £4.25.

23. Chablis Premier Cru 1981 or 1982. One of the best known dry white wines of France from the small area of Chablis some 100 miles south east of Paris. Only the finer vineyards are designated Premier Cru. A classic wine ideal with white meat or fish. £4.35.

24. Château des Bidaudières Vouvray 1982. The Chenin Blanc grapes growing around this small village near Tours in the Loire Valley produce a medium dry white wine with good fruit and acidity. This wine will also improve on keeping. £3.45.

25. Uerziger Würzgarten Auslese 1975 or 1976 Moselle. The Riesling wines of Würzgarten are sheltered by mountains and this fragrant and spicy sweet wine is produced from selected (auslese) grapes. Serve chilled with desserts or as a special aperitif. £5.99.



26. Domaine De La Bretonnerie 1982 Muscadet De Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie. This Muscadet is named after two of the Loire's great tributaries. It has the added fruitiness which results from the grapes remaining longer on the lees ('sur lie'). Ideal with fish - especially shellfish. A light, dry and refreshing white wine. £2.99.

27. Kiedricher Heiligenstock Kabinett 1982 Rheingau. From the pride of Germany's wine land come some splendid white wines. This one is no exception. Elegant and well-balanced it is a distinguished accompaniment to most white meat and fish. £4.20.

28. Deidesheimer Hengstzacker Kabinett 1981 or 1982 Rheinpfalz. Wines from the Palatinate are rich, well flavoured, and lively and Deidesheimer is regarded as one of the best villages. This is a light medium dry white wine and versatile enough for fish, poultry or a chilled aperitif. £4.10.

29. Aperdiner Gewürztraminer Beerenauslese 1981 or 1982. Selectively selected and overripe grapes from the Gewürztraminer vines at Aperdin in the Burgenland of Austria produce a wine of concentrated sweetness and depth to compare with the best of the Sauternes. Lightly chilled, it's superb with fruit or dessert. £4.95.

30. Amarone Pasqua 1978. This is a Recioto della Valpolicella - not to be confused with the more popular wine of the latter name. Only the grapes from the 'ear' of the vine which have begun to dry in the sun are used. The result is an impressive dry red wine of high quality and full flavour. £3.95.

31. Quinta da Bacalhôa 1981. Portuguese red wines have been a rather well-kept secret for too long. This one produced from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, matured in chestnut casks, is similar to a dry, red Bordeaux. Like all Portuguese reds, it will improve with keeping. £3.65.

Good wine costs less at Sainsbury's.

Democrats hope to beat Reagan with help of recession-hit blacks

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

The main significance of the Rev Jesse Jackson's decision to seek the Democratic presidential nomination lies not in the number of votes he will get at next year's party convention but in the impact it will have on the nation's black electorate - in particular, on activists, to increase voter registration among blacks.

Mr Jackson is, in effect, riding the crest of a new political awakening among America's 27 million blacks. This process began during the Carter Administration but has accelerated rapidly since President Reagan came to office.

The reason for this is fairly simple. Despite the advances achieved during the civil rights campaign of the 1960s, blacks remain significantly worse off than whites. Unemployment among blacks is double that of whites and their average income is half.

Whatever gains they made under President Carter, they believe these have been largely lost during the past three years. Many blacks feel the Reagan Administration is unsympathetic to their interests and that they have been forced to bear the brunt of its cutbacks in social spending.

The first tangible evidence of this black political renaissance appeared during the 1982 congressional elections, when black voting participation increased by 6 per cent over the previous off-year elections, an increase double that for whites.

This rise in turnout was the direct result of a black voter registration drive which has been under way for three years. Between 1980 and 1982, an additional 573,000 blacks have gone on the rolls. More than 600,000 others have been added since the summer of 1982 and their numbers are increasing by thousands a week.

Russians claim Sakharov is mad

From Richard Owen
Moscow

A Soviet official hinted yesterday that the dissident physicist and human rights campaigner, Dr Andrei Sakharov was mentally ill, and that his views on nuclear disarmament proved he was deranged.

Mr Vitaly Ruben, a senior Supreme Soviet official, described Dr Sakharov as a "sick person". Dr Sakharov was exiled from Moscow to the closed town of Gorky in 1980 for his human rights activities. Mr Ruben claimed Dr Sakharov had sent a letter to the United States "urging the American administration to make a nuclear strike, at the Soviet Union". In doing so he had called for nuclear catastrophe, Mr Ruben remarked, adding: "A healthy person does not do such things."

Dr Sakharov, the "father" of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, is well known for his achievements in weapons of mass destruction. He is a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and has been through nuclear training.

Dr Sakharov, 60, has been fearing for his life since he was wounded in a plane crash in 1975.

He lives in isolation in Gorky, and is in poor health. He has almost no contact with fellow scientists. Mrs Sakharov has complained that he is not allowed access to the Academy of Sciences hospital at Novosibirsk.

Mr Ruben said the Kremlin had banned Dr Sakharov to Gorky out of "humane considerations" to ensure his "peace of mind". He was writing research papers for publication in Russia and America, and was "constantly in touch with fellow physicists".

Soviet doctors were "taking all necessary measures" to restore Dr Sakharov's health, and were treating him at home, Mr Ruben said. The authorities had acted with the necessary tact.

Moscow's dwindling band of dissidents is expected to appear on Pushkin Square tomorrow for the traditional protest marking human rights day. Mr Ruben said yesterday that Russia observed social, political and economic rights whereas the West did not. There was no unemployment in Russia, and those prosecuted were not dissidents but anti-social criminals.

Mr Oleg Radzinsky, a founder member of the semi-official peace movement, yesterday wrote to Western correspondents in Moscow from a Siberian labour camp to condemn President Reagan and repudiate his support and help. Mr Radzinsky said his name was being used for "provocative purposes". Letters from Siberian exiles do not normally reach Western journalists.



yet the number of unregistered blacks amounted to almost a million.

The impact which increased registration can have been demonstrated in a number of mayoral races this year, notably in Chicago, where black turnout increased by 120,000, and Philadelphia, where it went up by about 100,000. Both cities elected black mayors for the first time in their history.

More than 240 American cities now have black mayors. They include four of the country's six biggest cities, although Mr Jackson's bid for the Democratic nomination is the most notable expression of this new "model" of black assertiveness. Black political leaders are hoping to make use of their growing numerical strength to expand their presence in the House of Representatives, which stands at 20 at present, and in state legislatures, which now have about 340.

They also believe they can help to recruit such notable right-wingers as Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, and Senator Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina, as well as a number of Southern conservative Democrat known as "Boll weevils", who enabled President Reagan to get his controversial "economic programme approved by Congress."

The main question, however, is whether blacks will vote in such large numbers as are now being predicted if, as seems certain, Mr Jackson loses the Democratic nomination. A number of black leaders, originally opposed to Mr Jackson's candidacy, believe blacks will unite behind him. Mr Jackson, who has been a Democrat who has a chance of getting Mr Reagan out of the White House, but who concedes that much of the enthusiasm which Mr Jackson generates at grassroots level will have been lost.

Cheap ways to avoid 15 million baby toll

By Tony Santas

About 15 million children - the equivalent of the entire under-five population of the United States, or of Britain, Italy, Spain and West Germany combined, have died in the past year, although a number of low-cost programmes could cut that death rate by half, the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) said yesterday.

Launching its report on *The State of the World's Children 1984*, the agency noted that an equal number of young children in the developing world were left physically or mentally handicapped by disease and malnutrition. The report, which analysed child mortality and life expectancy figures from 130 countries, draws on studies from 20 of the poorest which suggest that "dramatic gains in child well-being can indeed be achieved at a relatively low cost and in a relatively short time despite economic recession".

In addition traditional techniques of food supplements, family spacing and female education, Unicef recommends

The State of the World's Children 1984 is available from Oxford University Press in a variety of editions or from the UK Committee for Unicef, 55 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3NB.

four others: oral rehydration therapy for treating diarrhoeal infections, which kill five million children a year; growth monitoring to ensure more efficient use of what food is available; expanded immunization schemes and the promotion of breast-feeding.

Standards of child health care are improving so slowly, Unicef says, that "more than 70 million will still have infant death rates considerably higher than 50 per 1,000 by the end of this century. And in those 70 nations, three out of five of the world's children are born."

Such indicators as children's birth-gaps - parallel rising infant mortality figures even in some areas of the United States and the Soviet Union to suggest that the world recession has had a severe impact on the state of the world's children.

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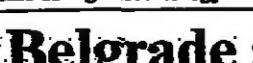
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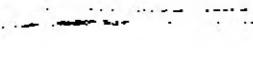
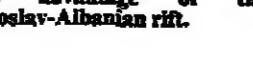
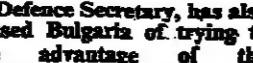
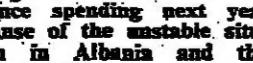
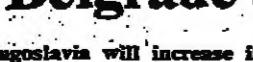
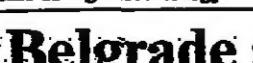
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Coming up roses: Jane Russell in Los Angeles making her first appearance in a television series after a long absence from Hollywood - during a break in filming "The Yellow Rose".



CONTRARY TO ANY PREVIOUS ADVICE, THERE ARE ONE OR TWO THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT A WINE.

- 1 Do you know that the Muscadet vineyards are the only ones in Britain to be classified by the Appellation Contrôlée authorities?
- 2 Are you aware that the grape variety grown in this area is the Melon de Bourgogne, which has been rechristened as the Muscadet?
- 3 Do you know that it was the monks in the seventeenth century who first brought vines to this area of France?
- 4 Are you familiar with the three areas of the Loire valley: dry wine in the west (Muscadet), and the east (Sancerre), with the sweeter wine in the middle (Amboise)?
- 5 Are you aware that traditionally Muscadet is the first region to be picked every year?
- 6 Do you realise that Muscadet is not only picked young, it is bottled young, and is immediately ready for drinking?
- 7 Do you know Muscadet sun wine is bottled directly from the barrels where it has fermented on the lees?
- 8 Do you know that wines of 'sun' in nature, if racked, will oxidise and become?
- 9 Do you ensure that for chilled white wine the glasses are cold?
- 10 Are you aware that it's the natural carbon dioxide in a wine which is responsible for its freshness?
- 11 Do you realise that the different productions of separate communes are almost impossible to find as they are not classified in this area?
- 12 Are you aware that there are three

- 13 Do you know it's the lower of these areas that is regarded as being the best?
- 14 Do you realise that altogether there are 22,500 acres of Muscadet grown near the mouth of the River Loire?
- 15 Do you know that Appellation Contrôlée not only guarantees the origin of Muscadet but also ensures that high standards are met?
- 16 Do you realise that the Appellation Contrôlée law sets a minimum alcohol level of 11% AC wine?
- 17 Do you know that Muscadet is one of the few French wines to have a recommended upper limit on its alcoholic strength, so it retains its freshness and fruity flavour?
- 18 When the French call a wine 'gouleyant' are you aware it means a light wine both in terms of taste and strength?
- 19 In the Loire the drier, lighter wines come from the areas with chalky soil, heavier wines from the areas of 'marl'. Did you realise this is because marl stores more heat?
- 20 Do you know that the drier a wine is, the more fragrance it will have?
- 21 Muscadet is the natural accompaniment to shellfish and seafood. Did you realise this is because it's grown close to the Atlantic?
- 22 Muscadet does not need to be decanted. Do you realise this is because it 'throws' little or no sediment?
- 23 The rule is that if Muscadet is to accompany a dish, it is the best wine to assist in the cooking. Are you aware of this?
- 24 Are you also aware that if you add wine during the cooking of a dish it should always be heated first?
- 25 Do you also know that the finer a white wine the less its subtleties should be masked by cold?
- 26 When cooling a white wine, are you aware that one or two hours at most in a refrigerator is sufficient?
- 27 Do you know the rule that a Muscadet wine should not be served as cold as a Blanc de Blancs?
- 28 Are you aware that twenty minutes in a freezer is the maximum for a white wine?
- 29 Do you realise that good white wines should never be chilled too rapidly in a refrigerator?
- 30 Do you appreciate that there is no need to wrap a Muscadet in a white napkin unless it's being served from an ice-bucket?
- 31 Are you aware that iced-water is more effective than ice cubes alone when cooling a wine?
- 32 Muscadet being a younger, lighter wine should be drunk before older, heavier wines.
- 33 Do you know the rule that at an all white wine meal, one should start with the more subtle wines and then move on to the more aromatic ones?
- 34 When serving Muscadet, or other white wine do you always use glasses with a crystal bowl to show off the colour of the wine?
- 35 Are you aware that both natural sunlight and artificial light are harmful to wine in clear glass bottles?
- 36 Do you know that the ideal temperature for storing Muscadet and all white wines is 7-12 Centigrade?
- 37 Do you always dry wine glasses whilst they are still warm with a lint-free cloth, preferably a linen one?
- 38 Do you always store your wine glasses upright so that air cannot penetrate in the bowl and prevent them becoming tainted?
- 39 Do you always inspect the cork to ensure that it does not contain weevils?
- 40 Do you like the crisp, dry flavour of Muscadet?
- 41 Do you like the price?

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Theatre

Scream of hatred

Sufficient Carbohydrate

Hampstead

Announced as "Dennis Potter's first original stage play," this is an angry piece about five tourists being very rude to each other on a Greek island.

In the chaotic confines of Tanya McCullin's villa set, the play begins as a messy Anglo-American dogfight over the future of a chain of British foodstores.

Two directors of the company are on holiday with their wives. Jack's family founded the store, then sold out to the Americans who now want to get rid of him as a lazy, obstructive, alcoholic. The holiday has been arranged to give the American director, Eddie, a chance to get rid of Jack.

Hosilities get under way in the early morning sunshine, with Jack springing to the defence of hand-picked mushrooms and Eddie no less vigorously putting the case for biotechnology.

Irving Wardle

Fishing

Arts Theatre

"If only she would get married," think Mum and Aunt May as Ingrid sits expecting her second child in the tower-block flat she shares with yet another man who beats her up.

This last play in the Arts' rewarding black playwrights' season places a vulnerable, peripled character between two ways of life. Her friend Jean, planning to give her man the push, is all for freedom and drawing his wife to the dregs.

Her cousin in Manchester (mercifully unseen) is marrying a nice, non-smoking clerk, with her as bridesmaid in pink chiffon with off-white lace on cuffs, collar, and what Auntie calls "the upper chest." "Very nice," comments Jean through her teeth.

Apart from its black milieu, Pauline Randall's play covers partly familiar territory, but it brings humour and much tenderness to the anguish of a character who cannot do the expected thing yet finds choosing her own path painful.

It also constitutes an engaging plea that best friends are better than lovers: Ingrid and Jean know and love each other so well, have more fun together than with anyone else, finish each other's sentences, sometimes fight, but cannot stay angry for long.

Yvonne Giddens (Ingrid) tries desperately to dispose of a dead goldfish, suffers a hilariously fragile hangover, pathetically protests "Jean, he doesn't beat you every night"; even ebullient Ellen Thomas is furious and hurt to find that the man she was going to walk out on has walked out first.

We see them in plenty of crises, but at least they have each other. And the two matriarchs are wonderfully contrasted. Corinne Skinner-Carter makes a Mum of few words and much understanding, and Peggy Phango flowers startlingly after a few drinks from a tight-lipped disapprover into a joyful Bacchante.

Anthony Masters

Opera

Carmen

Dominion Theatre

The Welsh National Opera's tarty, beleaguered carnival of a *Carmen* was much appreciated when it opened in Cardiff in May, but it seems to have run out of steam on the run to

London. Now Lucian Pintilie's production is not sharp enough to be a send-up, not important enough to be a tragedy and certainly not vivid enough to be any kind of a theatrical entertainment. With no disrespect to the Prince and Princess of Wales who were with us in the Dominion theatre, one must suggest that the wily *Carmen* watchers on Wednesday night were at home with Peter Brook on Channel 4.

The Welsh and Romanians, meanwhile, were failing to live up to their own aim of astonishing, an aim implicit from the treatment of the prelude, and the splendid irrelevance of using the fate music to accompany a tightrope act. The trouble is that once you have flung your midgets around a few times there are still three and a half acts to go.

Pintilie, very reasonably, finds it hard to take Micaela seriously, but unfortunately there is no purchase in pointing up the weakness of your material unless you do it in outrageously bad taste. A model village and a crucifix wheeled onto the stage were merely as feeble as Micaela herself, and they cruelly distract one from the finest singing of the evening, coming from Helen Field in this role.

Jennifer Jones returned as Carmen, amused and dangerous, but not vocally flamboyant enough to usurp the stage as she should. This was a little surprising when he had such poor competition. Jacque Trusel as Don Jose and Henry Newman as Escamillo were nowhere in the running, and at times this unconvincing production began to look disastrously like a comment on their interpretations. Nothing, though, could destroy the splendour and excitement being engendered in the pit by Mark Ermer.

BEST DIRECTOR AWARD '83

Orchestrator

DEPARDIEU

in *WAJDA*

DANTON

by Mark Ermer

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Times

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Paul Griffiths

THE ARTS

Cinema

Harking back, falling down

Trading Places (15)

Empire 2

Liquid Sky (18)

ICA Cinema, Classic Chelsea

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars (PG)

Lumière

Biddy (U)

Minema

House of Evil (18)

Classic Oxford Street

The most terrifying cinematic moment of 1983 occurred last weekend at the Dominion Theatre, London, when Victor Sjöström's silent classic *The Wind* (1928) approached its delirious climax. On screen, Lillian Gish staggered through the eye of a symbolic storm, surrounded by dust, swirling clouds and debris in the orchestra pit. Carl Davis's percussion players threw up a wall of noise. Just when matters reached fever pitch, a flaming horse pounded through the sky, reducing Miss Gish's emotions (and those of the spectators) to smitherines. No one could ask for a greater instance of cinema's power to shake one's being.

Last week's presentation of *The Wind*, and Griffith's fragrant *Broken Blossoms*, not only dwarfed most of the other offerings at the London Film Festival, they made pygmies of the current commercial brood. John Landis's comedy, *Trading Places*, though, has been a huge commercial hit in the United States during its summer release. The film opens here close to Christmas partly because Christmas trees and Santa Claus feature among the props; but mostly, one suspects, because Hollywood has few light-hearted romps to hawk.

The material harks back to the vintage comedies of Capra, Preston Sturges and Gregory La Cava, where American society was purposefully laid out, dissected and lampooned. Here, we see two specimens on the slab: Louis Winthorpe III, a smug product of money and privilege (played by pudding-faced Dan Aykroyd), and Billy Ray Valentine, a resilient survivor of the urban jungle (Eddie Murphy, from the

thriller *48 HRS*). Two mischievous moguls, played with alacrity by veterans Ralph Bellamy and Don Ameche, choose to test the benefits of breeding by making the couple swap places. Winthorpe becomes a penniless outcast, touchingly ridiculous in Winthorpe's house, Harvard tie, butler and brokerage job.

John Landis decorates this schematic tale with modest visual eloquence. His cameras catch the toro absurdity of a rain-swept Aykroyd staring through the window at his former colleagues; crisp editing isolates Murphy's sideways look as Bellamy pedantically explains the use of pork bellies in bacon. Performances, too, off the script's wheels: Denholm Elliott raises a querulous eyebrow and utters "Egg nog," as though comic British butlers had just been invented. The entire film, indeed, is an egg nog: it slips down parched throats easily enough, though the nutritional deficiencies should still be pointed out.

Timothy Harris and Herschel Weinograd's script toys with its situations rather than exploits them, and the verbal wit of their Hollywood models is nowhere approached. Truly successful comedy documents discipline: *Trading Places* is so prolific that a train bearing the leading characters in disguise, New Year revellers and a caged ape is needlessly catapulted into the script, with no decent gags for recompense.

"There's something strange going on here - I'm going to leave," mutters one of the bystanders in the outlandish *Liquid Sky*, made in New York by exiled Russian emigres. It may seem tempting to follow suit: the characters are the kind worth crossing a street to avoid; most of their words have four letters; the material, furthermore, hardly sustains 112 minutes. Yet *Liquid Sky* should not be brushed aside lightly. The bizarre production context alone earns the film a footnote in cinema history, and the blend of punk music, punk fashion show and science-fiction parody exerts a definite exotic appeal.

In its time, the Russian experimental film had drawn open sustenance from American popular culture; jazz and silent screen slapstick were potent influences of the 1920s. But director Slava Tsukerman, cameraman Yuri Neyman and their partners are children of an older, colder Soviet era: with the lurid shenanigans of *Liquid Sky* they are clearly relishing forbidden fruit. New York's punk underworld is viewed with a cold but sharply observant eye: personal relationships are entirely destructive, yet the people look highly glamorous - multi-coloured mannequins daubed with Japanese delicacy.

The production team's alien status is ingeniously built into the plot. There is an alien visitor on the heroine's rooftop, embedding glass arrows in the heads of anyone experiencing orgasm; there is a German scientist glued to a telescope, sharpening his accent on lines like "The alien craft is about the size of a dinner plate". Viewed as a cock-eyed scientific documentary, the film's sluggishness suddenly becomes understandable: all telescope watchers must expect boredom.

Tsukerman's band were joined in the venture by the American punk dignitary Anne Carlisle, she co-wrote the script and plays two parts (one of them male) with haunting zombie aplomb. Her own New York apartment - a pleasure-dome of neon signs and mirrors - is also featured prominently on-screen: quite understandably, she moved elsewhere as soon as the production was over.

D. A. Pennebaker's David Bowie film *Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars* documents western taste from a more traditional angle: Bowie's last concert appearance as his character "Ziggy Stardust" is filmed with all the sophistication that a darkened Hammersmith Odeon allows. The footage was shot in 1973 as a video disc experiment for RCA; for this delayed theatrical release, Bowie remixed the music track (though imperfections remain). Pennebaker - director of the rock documentaries *Don't Look Back* and *Monetary Pop* - feels this is "more than just a concert film".

To the extent that Bowie's act crystallizes crucial popular trends, he is correct. But future historians will have a frustrating time discerning Bowie's astonishing costumes beneath the film's grainy surface. The audience, perversely, comes across more clearly, through flashing shots of ecstatic faces and waving arms they seem like denizens of the inferno.

Biddy is a British aberration, devised and directed by Christine Edzard at the Rotherhithe studios of Sands Films. The tale of a Victorian nursemaid pottering into old age utilizes Edzard's flair for period accoutrements and whimsy (she was production designer and co-writer of *Tales of Beatrix Potter*); but hideously synchronized dialogue and an absence of dramatic thrust prove crippling handicaps.

The American horror piece *House of Evil*, written and directed by Mark Rosman, is ruined in turn by stunted imagination. Vicious mystery supposedly lurks in a college campus, but when mismatched characters talk about "the old cemetery" and "the old garage" we know precisely what is before us: old rubbish.

Geoff Brown

Eddie Murphy begs from Don Ameche in *Trading Places*

Dance



Consort Lessons, choreographed by David Bintley

Ballet out of music

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

Two new ballets on the same evening, one by a choreographer and designer new to the Royal Opera House, one by a guest conductor tackling ballet for the first time, where do I start? Perhaps with the thought that both the ballets are plotless, the first works of any substance in that genre to be created for this branch of the Royal Ballet in well over three years, so they provide a welcome counterbalance in a repertoire heavily (some of us think far too heavily) weighted with strong dramatics and old classics.

Richard Alston's ballet, *Midsummer*, gained more from the new conductor, Howard Williams, to direct Michael Tippett's *Fantasia Concertante* on a theme of Corelli, written in 1953, right after *The Midsummer Marriage*, and having some links with that work. The Covent Garden strings played bravely.

Alston lives up to his claim, in Wednesday's creation, *Consort Lessons*. He has stretched his dancers hard, especially in making them move much faster than they are accustomed to go, continually crossing a wide area with swift, precise steps, and although he too has cast his ballet from strength, mainly among the younger women with some more experienced men, you can see that they find it an effort. If they can catch up with him, not only this ballet but their other roles will benefit.

There is no such uncertainty about Bintley's creation, *Consort Lessons*. He has stretched his dancers hard, especially in making them move much faster than they are accustomed to go, continually crossing a wide area with swift, precise steps, and although he too has cast his ballet from strength, mainly among the younger women with some more experienced men, you can see that they find it an effort. If they can catch up with him, not only this ballet but their other roles will benefit.

This is in fact true of the greater part of the choreography, from the slow solo by Ashley Page that starts the ballet to the duet for Bryony Brind and Jonathan Cope that comes near the end. That couple, both long-limbed, achieve an attractive, almost gawky grace together, which might suggest a metaphor for young people learning how to relate to each other.

There are plenty of crisper passages, notably a sextet for all the male dancers and a darting entry for Brind and the other woman soloist, Fiona Chadwick. Also, Alston (like David Bintley in the other new work) makes his cast use the whole stage more freely and broadly than they often do. On the other hand, I wonder whether the solid groupings of some entries, accentuated by the costumes in solid colours, are going to grow to seem more natural or less so?

Midsummer gives all its dancers plenty of steps to perform, something else that has tended to go by default recently in favour of pliant plastic and manipulative adagios. He shows such a keen awareness of just what will make each of them look good that he has been content to work within the very considerable capacities of a gifted young cast, or whether it is actually harder than it seems but with her dance more excitingly.

At least, they would look difficult but for the radiant poise and smooth, crisp exactness with which Collier dances them. She meets the challenge of Bintley's choreography with shining assurance, pushes her always admirable skills further than ever before, and in other recent roles proves that she can still find new qualities to match new demands. I have never seen her dance more brilliantly.

Collier is the star of the evening, in this and in MacMillan's *Fauré Requiem* that completes the bill, but her colleagues in *Consort Lessons* keep up gamely. In particular, it is good to see Ferri being allowed for once to dance flat out without all that acting, and Jefferies allowed to cap a sequence of *tours en l'air* by the other men with a "double double" and a joking look of surprise delight.

Terry Bartlett's architectural setting, with its false perspective in the backdrop, perhaps adds to the vertiginous liveliness of the ballet, and his costumes with their varied stripes in warm colours are handsome. The new works together are a shot in the arm for the Covent Garden repertory, but the dose is so small as to seem homeopathic: you have only December 12, 17 and 30 on which to catch them.

John Percival

Television

Whether public schools enrich the national psyche or impoverish it is one of those arguments beloved of the British. William Boyd obviously belongs to the latter school of thought. The public school portrayed in his *Good and Bad Games* on Channel 4 last night was surely more public than most and lacked entirely the restraining presence of masters.

His plot, that a much-bullied boy would wait 10 years for revenge, a melodramatic one at that, I found improbable and there was the further handicap that the same actors were required to play boys and adults with a 10-year gap between. This and the innumerable flashbacks made it difficult to know where one was.

So the story, despite the expertise of director Jack Gold, did not translate well to him. As the victim, Anton Lesser, with the aid of a moustache and beard, managed to hop back and forth over that age gap better than most and his performance, in the circumstances, was excellent. Martin Stanbridge, too, as the sporting all-rounder, tolerated but not accepted, did well, but all in all, this moribund little deterrent to parents about to plunge deep into their overdrafts for school fees did not come off.

It is not only boys at public schools who have problems, however, for it is a wicked world. The Sniffer's Tale, also on Channel 4, was the fifth in director-producer Jeff Perks's look at young East Enders. One hopes that the same implications would impress younger and possibly deprived viewers more than its detailed information concerning the practice of glue-sniffing and the relative merits of Bosistix, Evoxstick and Thixofix. It is possible that this might not be so.

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John Percival

Rock

T-Bone Burnett

Dingwalls

When a man who could have understood for the young Robert Mitchum in *Thunder Road* - hooded peep

SPECTRUM

Kenya: the rocky road from Uhuru

Kenya became independent 20 years ago on Monday. Xan Smiley finds it to be a land still struggling towards nationhood, and talks to Daniel arap Moi in his first interview since he succeeded Jomo Kenyatta

The first rule of writing about Africa is that comparisons are everything. It is no good coming from Europe and pontificating on one African country without knowing others. Every country in the African continent can be convincingly portrayed in a bleak light. Through no fault of the Africans (who often do make matters worse), Africa is ill-starred. Practically every country is an artificial patchwork creation. Boundaries - crazy straight lines and rectangles - were drawn with brutal crudity by colonial mapmakers. Ancient traditions were swept aside, hybrid societies hatched overnight, ashamed of the old ways but given only a veneer of the new.

Peoples - tribes - often far more different from each other than, say, Spaniards and Poles, were hurled together and told to become one. There are almost no nation-states in Africa. They have been told to create nationhood out of a host of diversity. Kenya is no exception. It is not a nation. It is trying to become one. It is remarkable that it has held together as well as it has.

The first rule is to look at the neighbours. Kenya has recently gathered an army of detractors, mostly from the left. Many of their criticisms contain more than a germ of truth: that there is too much corruption, that the grab-grab, freewheeling, often chaotic capitalism has lowered morality, that some of the rich are obscenely rich while the poor are too easily trampled. Yet by the standard of every neighbour, Kenya is an island of tolerance, prosperity and progress for most of its people.

Look clockwise: Uganda, groping back to economic sanity under the still unloved minority leader Milton Obote, will take a generation to recover a modicum of civil decency; southern Sudan, its rich potential unfulfilled, is drifting back toward civil war; bloodstained Ethiopia is beset by at least four regional rebellions and beholden to the Soviet Union; Somalia's leadership is near-bankrupt and beleaguered. Only Tanzania, under the once-plausible Nyerere, for so long the darling of the progressive developmentalists, can stake a claim to equality with Kenya.

It is a false claim. Nyerere's much mentioned barb that Kenya is a "man-eat-man" society is still blunted by the Kenyan retort that in Tanzania "man eats nothing". It is true that Tanzania is more egalitarian than Kenya. There is no great individual wealth. In both countries there remain millions living on subsistence. But in Tanzania the mediocrity is deeper, the poverty is more uniform.

Impressive figures are ritually trotted out - unverifiable and increasingly contested - to show advances in literacy, water supply and health care. Yet with less fanfare Kenya has done better on all levels, although contrary to standard wisdom, Kenya's agricultural potential is less than Tanzania's.



Daniel arap Moi: suspicious of left-wing intellectuals

Kenya took longer to make primary schooling free and most still pay for secondary school. But the numbers of

A government with a sense of determination

secondary students in Kenya (up from 31,000 at Independence to 438,000 today) far surpass those in Tanzania.

Kenyan medical treatment, though often maladministered, easily outpoints Tanzania where drugs, anaesthetics, even gauze and soap, are unobtainable in many hospitals.

Agricultural development overall, Kenya is far ahead, the Tanzanian dream of *ujamia* (collectivization of villages) having turned sour years ago.

Tanzanian sneers that the former white highlands of Kenya have simply passed to a new black elite are rubbish. There is indeed a mini-class of rich black Kenyans, there remains a landless minority who feel cheated by the fruits of independence plucked by others.

But most of the white settlers' farms were transferred to cooperative societies, often badly administered. Kenya's most justifiable boast is the growth of intensively farmed peasant smallholdings. Maladministration of bureaucracy and corruption is threatening the wellbeing of the small coffee farmer, the Kenyan cotton and py-

rethrum growers have already been sorely hit.

But many thousands of Kenyan smallholders have become modestly prosperous through coffee, tea, sugar and tobacco. Often in harness with those monsters of the Tanzanian demography, the multi-national companies like Booker McConnell and BAT.

There are probably five million Kenyans out of 17 million who are now part of the peasant cash economy. Another two million or so have become urban. Many of the rest stay poor. But overall that is a fine achievement in 20 years.

All the same, Kenya's economy is shakily - like even the best in Africa. Fuel swallows 55 per cent of foreign earnings. The world recession has thumped tourism and played havoc with the prices of export crops like coffee. Government spending has been profligate, and too often corruption has led to the wrong contracts being signed. Three years ago Kenya had its first shortages of such goods as flour.

The IMF has arrived with its tough conditions for loans and already, while Tanzania still faces shortages of tea, sugar and soap and petrol, Kenyan shops are full and businessmen are predicting that they are coming out of the trough.

Government spending is sharply down, people are worse off than they were five years ago and inflation is around 24 per cent, but the recent elections and cabinet shake-up have lent a sense of determination to the Government.

The jitters that followed the coup attempt of August 1982 have gone, the armed forces better cosseted. President will never be calm.

Moi faces a very awkward few years but he seems to have acquired a new lease of life.

Kenyan politics have always been rough, dirty, but admirably lively. Tribal groupings are bigger and more competitive than in Tanzania.

The man at the top of Kenya needs to be tough. Kenyatta was the archetypal African nationalist, his strength based on one tribe (the Kikuyu) but his patronage spread cleverly across a tribal board where alliances are ever shifting.

He allowed a measure of opposition - so long as the centre was not threatened. Then he was ruthless. Two important politicians - Tom Mbaya and J. M. Kariuki - were assassinated without satisfactory explanation; at least one other lesser figure was killed.

Kenyatta kept about 15 of his severest critics in jail. His successor, Mr Moi, let them out, but soon put another few back in again. Within the one-party system, Kenya is a fairly loosely-controlled, limited democracy. People can argue - up to a point. Every five years MPs face the popular electoral music. Only a handful of candidates are barred from standing. Despite Mr Moi's suspicion of left-wing intellectuals, Kenya remains one of Africa's most open societies.

Life across the colour line is more relaxed

Multi-racial? In a way, yes. There is more tolerance - pragmatic, amused, sometimes mutually contemptuous - than real social mixing or friendship. The cultures of both black and white still sit far apart, unyielding.

But compared with 30 years ago, when Kenya was as race-based as Ian Smith's Rhodesia life across the colour-line is relaxed and natural.

Blacks now feel less need to assert themselves, whites have less cause to "bend over blackwards". White numbers are down from 56,000 at Independence to 39,000 today, Indians from 177,000 to 77,000. Most of the present whites are expatriates. Only 4,000 are Kenyan citizens.

The more profound change is the rise of a black middle class more fastidious as consumers, as professionals, and as voters. So far the politics of tribe and patronage prevail.

But for the professional in his mid-thirties the political old guard no longer seems adequate. Its corruption is disliked not because it is immoral (few Kenyans really believe that) but because it increases inefficiency and impedes meritocracy.

The extended family and the trickle-down of wealth from the "big man" to the distantly-related family followers of wealth.

But as the middle-class nuclear family takes over and the urban and middle classes slowly become detribalised, the old politics will lose their grip. But not yet. The old-time techniques of Jomo Kenyatta and the less flamboyant, sober Mr Moi have held Kenya together effectively.

The pace of change is perplexing. It is hard to govern so vivacious and rambunctious a country, so diverse in peoples, both firmly and liberally as education expands. The battle between laissez-faire growth and inequality, between order and liberty, will sharpen. Kenya has been fortunate in its past. The future could be fruitful; it will never be calm.

Following the great man's footsteps

Daniel arap Moi lacks the subtlety of Mungai, the rhetorical flair of a Kenyatta, the philosophical thoughtfulness of a Nyere. He is a solid-village primary schoolteacher who became a local worthy in the 1950s, moved into the provincial limelight by dint of hard work and schoolmasterly virtue, led the colonial-blessed and mainly non-Kikuyu opposition to Jomo Kenyatta before independence 20 years ago, but was absorbed into the leadership of the ruling and single party as part of the post-Uhuru consensus in 1964. Three years later he became vice-president, when the founding father died in 1978, the constitutional machinery projected Mr Moi into the top spot.

He is modest: "It was difficult to fit into the shoes of a great man like Jomo Kenyatta", he says. Some, especially the dominant Kikuyu, thought he would be a stop-gap. He has grasped power tightly.

His stolidness and lack of intellectual sophistication does not go down well with the university students and intellectuals - but they are not Kenyans. The growing professional classes sometimes fear that Mr Moi too often speaks impulsively from the hip, on issues that require caution and planning.

Purists, often Europeans who do not appreciate that politics in Kenya, as throughout Africa, are based primarily on patronage and on the play of ethnic checks and balances, complain that Mr Moi, with his immense business interests, is soft on corruption among the political and business elite (often one and the same). "I've managed to reduce corrupt practices... they exist in any society. I'm proud of what we've done", he insists. The scale may be less spectacular than at the end of the Kenyatta era, but most Kenyans reckon it is no less extensive. Even allowing for traditional indulgence towards privilege at higher levels, corruption has reached dangerous proportions.

Much more to the point: the masses undoubtedly like him. He has the common touch and seems ill at ease with the political theory of right as much as left. "My ideology", he says simply, "is stomach." When I suggested that the west was better at stomach, the Russians better at guns, he booted with laughter. Kenyans do not like to admit that their official "non-alignment" is heavily pro-western.

He works exceptionally hard, travels ceaselessly, is genuinely committed to improving leaders, he is also courageously outspoken in favour of family planning - a very sensitive cultural issue. He has even suggested that "the government might have to step in... the message is getting through." Not fast enough, probably, to remove Kenya from its place as fastest breeder in the world. With an annual population rise of 4 per cent.

Over the past 20 years, he believes Kenya's greatest achievements are "the dismantling of a racially based society", where schools, hospitals and land were segregated, "the orderly transfer of wealth and land to Africans", and the forging of unity based on "political consolidation".

meaning an undictatorial, fairly tolerant one-party state, with the proviso that "we have always held general elections at regular intervals". Three months ago, a third of MPs were peacefully voted out.

The growth of peasant prosperity is probably Kenya's greatest achievement, one that few African countries can match. Mr Moi conceded that coffee cooperatives are riddled with mismanagement and needed a clean-up, but he stated with pride that "70 per cent of our coffee and 40 per cent of our tea (together with tourism from the country's chief earners) are produced by smallholders."

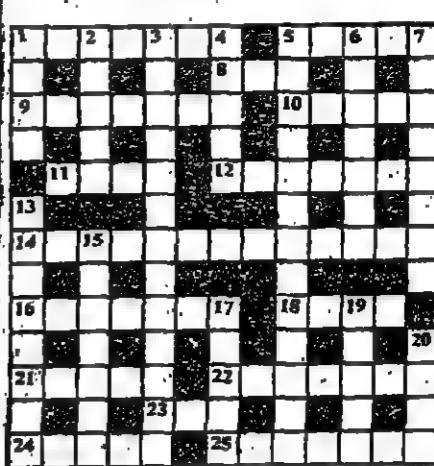
He is edgy at suggestions that Kenya has become more repressive. "For me it is far more important to improve the lot of the majority, he says.

"I can't understand our friends in the West who support these small minorities, who even cause loss of life" - a reference to the bloody coup attempt of August 1982 that did such harm to Kenya's reputation abroad.

"People should not compare us with the US and Britain. We started to put democracy here 20 years ago. We have a different background, different history, with varying degrees of understanding of these things. If they want us to look like them, they will destroy us."

Would he step down voluntarily one day? He let out one of his periodic bellows of laughter which do much to soften the sometimes rather wooden, uncertain delivery. "You are asking me too early... power stems from the people. But I wouldn't like to stick like a tick just for the sake of it".

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 219)



ACROSS
 1. Charitable donations (4)
 2. NZ honey-eating bird (3)
 3. Household head (13)
 4. Tawny (7)
 5. Nigerian river (5)
 6. Apprehension (4)
 7. Mexican American (7)
 8. Basically (13)
 9. Lobe ornament (7)
 10. Whirlpool (4)
 11. Indian joint (5)
 12. Turf (7)
 13. Dooley (3)
 14. Hazards (5)
 15. Level (7)

DOWN
 1. Ferdinand (7)
 2. Moon crick (3)
 3. Househead (13)
 4. Resigned (5)
 5. Christopher Robin's bear (6,3,4)
 6. Plaited hair bunch (7)
 7. Quirks (6)
 8. Law breaker (8)
 9. Highly strung (7)
 10. Gander's mate (5)
 11. Comical (5)
 12. Rhone capital (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 218
ACROSS: 1. Raffia 5. Medie 8. Boo 9. Remiss 10. Trough 11. Hash 12. Abyance 14. Perfumery 17. Bulletin 19. Vest 21. Midrib 23. Asert 24. Bar 25. Duncus
DOWN: 2. Arens 3. Frightful 4. Abstain 5. Motts 6. DSG 7. Logical 13. Arriviste 15. Erdie 16. Tankard 18. Tabby 20. Siren 22. Ref

moreover... Miles Kington

Cosmic News in Brief

President Grig of Glut, the richest galaxy in the Universe, announced yesterday (Upper Quadrant Time) that the peace-keeping force he has sent to Sapunkri would be reinforced by another three million troops. This was because the previous three million peace-keeping troops have been wiped out by a terrorist holocaust. So, come to that, has Sapunkri.

"Sapunkri, at this moment in time, has ceased to exist," said President Grig. "Our vigilance therefore has become all the more urgent. It is our sacred mission to keep peace in the black hole that used to be Sapunkri. Thank you."

Comrade Prop, leader of the People's Galaxy of Smelt, has denounced Glut's peace-keeping force as a new provocation. He said he regarded the three million troops as enemies. To back up his word, he announced he would destroy them.

To make things even clearer, he would destroy them this very moment. He pressed a black button on his video-deck. He then allowed himself the first smile of the evening.

The three million new peace troops in the Sapunkri hole have been destroyed.

President Grig of Glut said that while he regretted the disappearance of his three million peace troops, he was glad that all their details were on microtape and that he could reconstruct them at a moment's notice. He then did so, and personally welcomed them back.

Today (Upper Quadrant Time) is the 4,000th anniversary of the assassination of Quingo Bluetian, ex-President of the galaxy of Glut. Many distinguished video-cameras were present at the memorial 3-D rerun of the killing, including Quingo Bluetian himself, who is reconstructed every year for the event. "I am glad to be here for the celebration of my death", he said, "especially as I am none the worse for my..."

At this point he was assassinated again.

During the semi-finals of the Unovision song contest, the outlying world of Ring-a-boom-boom was destroyed by excess reverbs. Despite apologies by the organizers, survivors of the holocaust seem undismayed. "It's all part of the fun", they said. Favourite for the final is three-headed singer Squish from Volum, with his or her song "I Love You, I Kill You".

Rumours of the death of Comrade Prop, leader of the People's Galaxy of Smelt, swept the known universe today after he failed to appear for his world's National Doomsday celebrations. Comrade Prop has become popular as the first communist leader to have a sense of humour, and he will be much mourned in the Lower Quadrant, where the poor planets are clustered.

Later, live TV transmissions from Smelt were announced, direct from Comrade Prop's lying-in-state. This seemed to confirm rumours of his death.

Later still: During a particularly solemn moment of Comrade Prop's lying-in-state, he leapt from his coffin and said to the cameras: "So much for rumours of my death! Had you there, didn't I?"

A scandal has blown up in the Inter-galaxy Snooker Finals, now in its last year. Smelt's team is now computerised so that a shot on any table can be reproduced on any other table which means that some of the competitors have to leave home. But Steve Byron-2, the Glut champion, is accused of tampering with the computer programmes so that the pockets move to meet his ball. The Video Squad have been called in to investigate.

Universal Telecom reminds all thinking creatures that tomorrow is the last day for telepathic messages for Universe Day. The weather will continue strange with black holes in the Lower Quadrant and occasional asteroid showers everywhere. Now here are the main points of the Cosmic News again.

THE TIMES Tomorrow

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مكتبة من الأصل

Pat Jones is caught in a poverty trap. It has cost her her husband, her home and her happiness, as she tells Veronica Grocock

Drowning in a surging sea of debt

When Mrs Pat Jones first learnt that she had to give up her Birmingham home, she was heartbroken. It was the final and most harrowing blow in a long fight against accumulating debts, and she describes it as "like being kicked by a mule".

"We had struggled for so long, scraped the barrel for two or three years trying to keep on top of the mortgage (if nothing else), and now it's all gone. We've lost everything".

Pat, aged 35, is a former nursing auxiliary and mother of six children: four girls and two boys, aged from 17 to 6. She is a cheerful, sensible person, but her face shows signs of strain as she recounts the troubled story of the family's money problems.

Before Birmingham Council repossessed it last month, they had all lived for 10 years in the house on Woodgate Valley Estate on the outskirts of the city. In 1981 they decided to take up the council's offer of a 100 per cent mortgage.

"I always wanted to buy a house of my own", Pat recalls. "We moved into it when it was new, and I think that gives you an incentive. We were happy. It was a lovely house. We were going to do so much..."

Her husband, Barry, had chosen to take voluntary redundancy in 1979. He was a machinist with a car components firm that (as he had predicted) became bankrupt. He and his father then joined forces in a painting and decorating business.

"It got off the ground and everything was going fine, but in his first year he earned only £3,000 which, to keep eight of us, was just a joke. I was working at the time, at St. Mary's Hospice, and when his work started to fall off, I carried us through on my wages of £48 a week", Pat says.

Soon, almost imperceptibly, they found themselves caught in a vicious, downward spiral. "The rot set in when his work declined. Everything declined with it.

Who can help when the money runs out?

There are more than three million children in Britain whose parents are on the poverty line. As unemployment rises, a growing number of families are finding themselves steeped in debt. Today's debtors are not so much the "won't pays" but the "can't pays". A recent report by the National Consumer Council and Welsh Consumer Council described people who gets into debt, why and how, and what happens to them.

Mrs Shelia Salter, chairman of the Welsh Consumer Council, explains: "The single most important cause of consumer debt today is a sudden unexpected drop in income - such as that which is caused by redundancy, short-time working, illness, a death in the family or marriage break-up."

"Knocked for six by an event like that, people who previously paid their bills promptly and responsibly

may suddenly find themselves with little hope of repaying what they owe. Frozen in a blind panic, they may do nothing at all - except hope for a miracle. They don't know where to turn for advice and help - there is a severe shortage of money advice services. They may be ignorant of their rights and of the course that the law may take against them if they don't pay. Instead of doing the sensible thing and telling their creditors at the outset about their financial circumstances (which may ensure sympathetic treatment) they tend to keep quiet."

It is not easy to measure the full extent of debt in Britain today, says the report, because information is patchy. "But one thing is clear", says the National Consumer Council's Elizabeth Stanton, "it's growing. And although only a minority of people may be affected, for them it can be a nightmare."

forces" as a "material factor" employers could use in their defence. But it is precisely those "market forces" which allow women to earn only 74 per cent of what men earn. And the percentage is falling. What price then satisfying the EEC directive on equal pay?

Then there is the Sex Equality Bill. Among other things, it aims to introduce the concept of "equal value" into a long-overdue consolidation of the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Act. It also incorporates half the amendments to those Acts proposed by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 1982.

But it has grave defects. For instance, on this vexed equal value concept, it concentrates on collective agreements, "recommending that cases which may have a 'substantial effect' on such agreements be referred to the central arbitration committee. That has some merit, yet Europe requires the right to determination of equal value claims by 'judicial process', which means an individual before a court. The central arbitration committee is not a court. But the industrial tribunal is.

More importantly, however, the Bill is designed to make unlawful discrimination on grounds of homosexuality. But discrimination on grounds of sexual preference is not discrimination on grounds of sex, and the Bill cannot pretend that it is.

What the Government should do now is produce new primary legislation containing the EOC's proposed amendments. Only then will the need for complicated subordinate legislation be over, and we will cease to be found constantly in breach of European law. But it shows no sign of doing so.

Today's debate is of enormous importance, however, and the Bill, despite reservations, is deserving of support, for it is a brave beginning to a long overdue process of establishing real equal treatment for women in the United Kingdom.

Speaking in the Commons in July, the minister added "market

forces" as a "material factor"



Pat Jones with her family, from left, Nathan, Donna, Temple, Emma, Holly and Tara: "We've lost everything"

"We had been forced to sell the car, and Barry's dad lost a leg as a result of diabetes, so all the work dried up anyway. Then we had problems with the Inland Revenue. They more or less accused me of cooking the books."

Eventually, the business folded completely. It was the first time that Barry had ever been out of work. He began to claim supplementary benefit. Soon afterwards, Pat gave up her nursing job, partly because of the unsocial hours, but mainly because it was proving financially impractical (her earnings were being deducted from her social security payments, so that "all I was working for was £4 a week").

They slid deeper and deeper into debt. Household bills were put to one side and forgotten. Pat suffered from constant depression through sheer worry about making ends meet.

"I was in such a state over it all. Barry just used to 'up' and go out. We seemed to drift further and further apart. We could never talk about our financial troubles. His attitude was 'Never mind, let's keep going and hope for the best'. But I was the one answering the door to those people..."

Among the creditors were British Telecom, British Gas, the Inspector

I feel very sad because the children never have anything new

of Taxes, the local water authority and a catalogue collection agency. The biggest sums still outstanding are the mortgage and rates arrears, about £600 each.

The Department of Health and Social Security pays her gas bill direct now, and she has had an electric slot meter installed which clocks up an average of £2 a day. (When they have a Sunday roast the meter registers about £3.50.)

Pat and Barry have now separated, after 17 years of marriage. It was no stormy, hammer-and-tongs parting, she says, but a direct result of their recent vicissitudes. "It's really very sad, because we used to get on really well, and he's a good father. We've had some nice times."

A proficient DIY man, Barry's expertise in the home quickly waned when their finances slumped. "He did all the kitchen in pinewood. It was beautiful. He was so upset at losing the house that he just ripped the lot out."

Pat and five of her children (Donna, the eldest, is staying with

Pat's mother) have been rehoused in a much smaller house slightly further from the city centre. "I've always been able to turn to my mum. She's been very good", Pat says. Barry is staying temporarily with Pat's brother, who owns a pub in Birmingham.

The children seem to have adapted well to the family's changing circumstances. Even so, as a conscientious and caring mother, Pat is concerned about their day-to-day wellbeing: "I feel very sad", she says again, "because they never have anything new".

She groans at the thought of Christmas, remembering last year when "we sat here without a drink or anything. The kids had their things. It was the first year that Mum and Dad didn't come to us on Christmas Day. I think it was just because the atmosphere was so bleak."

When you are on the breadline, feeding a family of six is a perpetual worry, especially during the school holidays: (the children have free school meals). "I do things like sausage and mash, egg and chips. But meat is a luxury."

The eldest son, Temple, 16, is a

published earlier this year, suggests that around 20 per cent of their workload involves money-related problems. Fifty per cent of the project's cases were unemployed, with the failure of small businesses coming a close second.

● The report includes examples such as the following:

● Between 1979 and 1982 the proportion of loans from the 19 biggest building societies which were more than six months in arrears doubled from 0.19 per cent to 0.42 per cent.

● The number of tenants in rent arrears between 1980 and 1982 rose by almost half, and the amount outstanding more than doubled, among 13 Welsh housing authorities.

It also makes certain recommendations for helping to prevent debt:

● More education in consumer literacy and money management skills, which are needed by all school children to prepare them for adult life.

● Public bodies and commercial lenders should be sensitive to the individual circumstances of those who owe them money.

● Fuel boards and water authorities should use disconnection only as a last resort.

Debtors and their families must be protected from harassment, says the report, and expert money advice early on, before problems get out of hand, is crucial. Mrs Stanton says: "We look for a system that is firm but fair, effective but humane."

Of more than five million inquiries dealt with annually by citizens' advice bureaux, 100,000 involve debt. A report from the West Midlands, *Debt in the Recession*,

published earlier this year, suggests that around 20 per cent of their workload involves money-related problems. Fifty per cent of the project's cases were unemployed, with the failure of small businesses coming a close second.

Sheila Gibbons, a project worker and author of the report, said: "Debt is often thought to result from the ease with which people can take on credit. But most of the problems I dealt with involved the payment of basic essentials such as rent, rates, gas, electricity and clothing."

An estimated £9 million of debt

has been handled by CABs in the West Midlands during 1983, a figure believed to be just the tip of the iceberg.

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"Debt in the



THE TIMES DIARY

Will he, won't he?

Exactly who wrote what to whom in the Yorkshire Television/Ministry of Defence/IBA debate concerning tomorrow's televised transmission of *The Day After* promises to be more interesting than the programme itself. The Ministry claimed that Yorkshire's first written approach to Michael Heseltine asked only "would he like the opportunity to go on television?" after the programme.

Yorkshire Television seem to remember that the request to Heseltine took the form of a ten-paragraph letter, telecast to the Ministry on November 30, outlining exactly what they had in mind for the Ministry to do - that is, to be interviewed by Robert Kee and take part in a panel discussion along with Robert McNamara and General Bernard Rogers. (After the telex was despatched, it was learned that General Rogers was unable to appear on the programme.)

Mr Heseltine didn't reply to Yorkshire or even send them a copy of the letter that he subsequently wrote to the IBA stating that the political direction of the film was unbalanced. Yesterday, Mr Heseltine received a reply from Lord Thomson, chairman of the IBA, who didn't disclose the contents of his letter to Yorkshire either.

By luncheon yesterday Yorkshire, having been kept in the dark by practically everyone, were of the opinion that the Minister had decided not to appear but Mr Heseltine's assistant was saying, more promisingly: "I can't say that he wouldn't appear and I can't say that he can..."

Head start

Imran Khan, the flamboyant captain of the Pakistan cricket team, has entered the beauty business, backfacing a hairdresser called Dar, formerly of Vidal Sassoon. According to the Asian newspaper *New Life*, "Dar has pampered the hair of celebrities like Elkie Brooks, Russell Harty and many top international models." Older readers will be reminded of Denis Compton lending his sleek good looks to the promoters of Brycress.

Double tempo

Some concertgoers are beginning to think that the GLC is "Working for the Arts in London" rather too strenuously. In its attempts to boost trade at the Royal Festival Hall, the council has introduced jazz sessions in the Music Box on the third floor. The sound of these sessions often filters through to the main concert hall, giving patrons two concerts for the price of one. People sitting near the back of the auditorium have complained that the jazz was often louder than the classical music they had come for. "The effect was rather like being in one of those restaurants where the music drowns out your conversation," said one complainant. Tonight, the Digby Fairweather Quartet plays against Dame Janet Baker and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. And may the loudest performer win.

BARRY FANTONI



Team spirit

President Canaan Banana of Zimbabwe has disclosed where he would like to be buried: Harare's Ruwa soccer stadium. The 47-year-old president, a football fanatic who helped found the Zimbabwe parliament's Tornado team, revealed his choice at a recent soccer stars' banquet.

• The French might feel superior eating oysters rather than turkey at Christmas. But this year we have an opportunity for one-upmanship. The Loch Fyne Oyster Company will deliver their oysters to you by Securicor.

Badge of courage

While Danuta Waleska is waiting to collect her husband's Nobel Prize in Oslo tomorrow, thousands of badges commemorating the occasion are being clandestinely produced in Poland. The badges simply say "Nobel '83" with a white dove fluttering below the large rounded letters made famous in the Solidarity logo. The badges are on sale in dimly lit kiosks in churches. Profits are going to the families of imprisoned Solidarity members.

Silver lining

The very day after the Athens summit failed, the European Commission announced it had granted "a negative clearance to a know-how agreement". It was apparently something about who was allowed to make the rubber things which keep rainwater out of cars. Perhaps Athens was not such a failure after all.

PHS

PR: call in the professionals

by David Burnside

Would Mrs Thatcher ever have considered putting Lord Whitelaw, Mr Biffen or Mr Pym in charge of coordinating and presenting Conservative policies during an election campaign?

Surely not. In the tight discipline of an election, the Conservative Party has shown, both in 1979 and even more so in 1983, that it is up to all the tricks of the public relations and marketing trade. The clearly amateur Labour campaign organization and the over-flamboyant crudeness of the Alliance were no match for the slick and authoritative machine in Smith Square.

Why then is the Conservatives' performance or even their apparent understanding of public relations so abysmal when in government?

Let us take an example. No public relations man can change the fact that the burden of taxation has risen under this government. To try to claim otherwise would be blatant distortion - and quite unconvincing. Yet if the Government retains, from the Prime Minister down, a commitment to tax reduction, it should be within the wit of its PR men to orchestrate a popular campaign to promote the economic advantages of less tax - the advantages spelled out quite well in its two recent manifestos - and to explain what must be done to achieve it. On past performance, it is unlikely that such a campaign will be launched, let alone be successful.

Mr Pym, responsible for government PR from 1981 to 1982, could not coordinate the representation of the Government's policies

and "corporate image" because he did not really believe in either. Mr Biffen, between 1982 and 1983, adopted the fatalistic approach of a "true Tory" so convinced of the Conservatives' right to govern that re-election would come naturally rather than having to be worked for.

What are Lord Whitelaw's prospects? To start with, he can only fail in his stewardship if government public relations is confined to using his seniority to stop his more junior colleagues saying the wrong thing at the wrong time.

As in policy formulation, policy projection can only be carried out successfully if the established government information service is denoted from its present dominating and influencing role in No 10 and government departments. There is a need for a fully-qualified Prime Minister's Department and it should contain a PR secretariat to serve Lord Whitelaw in his new-found role. Its staff should be drawn not from governmental service but from the private sector, and developed and financed on the same lines, which is accepted by all parties, as the small band of policy advisers who at present surround a number of ministers.

Certainly, a No 10 press secretary and departmental heads of information should be appointed (and trained) to manage the day-to-day dissemination of departmental

information. It is time these officials were relieved of the task of advising ministers on strategies for policy presentation. Public relations is not just about passing out data; it requires expertise, planning and, in a political environment, political sensitivity. By tradition, training and, largely, inclination, those currently charged with the task of coordinating government PR are not suited to the role.

Without radical structural change, government public relations will inevitably continue its present course, conflicting approaches from different ministers, poorly written, badly timed, and fired shot-gun fashion at the media and the public; ministers popping up on television and radio ill-prepared, half-hearted and often quite oblivious to the demands of this "modern" medium of communication; an accent on defence, post justification and minimization of damage.

It is a tragedy that a Conservative government has to rely on winning elections despite itself and hoping for continuing failures and inadequacies from its opponents, rather than running a sustained and planned PR campaign, culminating in the six-week, purely party, battle at the hustings. Just as they did in 1983, the party professionals and advisers will again, in 1987-8, be forced to rescue the vote-winning potential of the Conservative Party in the run-up to a general election, so decimated by its dire PR performance during its years in government.

The author is public relations director to the Institute of Directors.

David Butler asks why the Tories still ride high after six indifferent months

Winning in spite of themselves

Six months ago today Mrs Thatcher was re-elected with the biggest majority since the war. Today, surprisingly, polls show that the Government still retains the 43 per cent support recorded on June 9. The Conservatives do not seem to have paid any electoral price either for the embarrassments that have befallen them, or for the recent improvements in Labour's image.

At the beginning of the new Parliament Mrs Thatcher was snubbed over the speakership, over MPs' pay, and over capital punishment. The Government has been visibly inept in its handling of foreign affairs and of the Parkinson scandal. And health service cuts have brought into salience one of the few issues on which it was patently a loser. Although the economic indicators have shown some improvement, Mr Lawson's utterances on taxation, taken in conjunction with the speeches of Mr Walker and Mr Pym, as well as the groans from the right wing, have hardly left an impression of a strong government confidently striving prosperity.

At the same time, Labour has come unscathed through what had promised to be a devastating leadership conflict. Neil Kinnock with his charm and potential appeal has replaced the low-rated Michael Foot. During the honeymoon period, the party has done nothing to remind the electorate of the divisions that proved so alienating in the previous parliament.

Why then has the electorate failed to show its accustomed volatility? After six indifferent months, the Government is still handsomely ahead in the polls. Not since 1961 has the party in power managed to stay sustained in front for more than 18 months. Have the rules of the political game changed fundamentally?

For the last five years the path of British politics has defied the expectations of participants and observers alike. In 1979, no one envisaged three million unemployed, and no one would have forecast the re-election of a government that presided over such record

joblessness. The automatic assumption that unemployment cost votes has been shattered.

But new assumptions grow up. The wild instability of the polls between December 1980 and June 1982 (confirmed by the results of by-elections and local elections) taught us to expect a continuing seesaw from an ever more volatile electorate:

Voting intentions November 1982 to June 1982 (MORI)

Cong Lab Alliance

Highest 47 50 13%

Lowest 27 27 44%

When every party saw its strength change by more than 20 per cent within a few months, politics had reached a new pitch of uncertainty. But since then an unexpected stability has come over the scene:

Voting intentions July 1982 to December 1982 (MORI)

Cong Lab Alliance

Highest 47 36 30%

Lowest 41 26 18%

After the Bermondsey by-election and again during the general election, the Alliance crept up momentarily on Labour. But by and large, since the Falklands war the broad pattern of party support has stayed within a point or two of Conservative 44 per cent, Labour 34, Alliance 20.

Since last October, Labour's support, which during the early stages of its leadership fight stayed at or below its general election abyss, has climbed up, staying perhaps two points from the Conservatives and six from the Alliance.

Voting intentions fluctuate in response both to events and to changing conceptions about the leaders and the parties. Leaders may matter less than many suppose, but certainly their images today are sharply differentiated. Collectively the Conservatives are seen as the party which "has the best leaders" (32 per cent say Conservative to 21 per cent Labour). Although Mrs Thatcher has a slightly lower rating on almost every quality today than she did nine months ago, perceptions of her outstanding characteristics are unchanged - 62 per cent

see her as stubborn, 78 as tough and 60 per cent as resolute; only 28 per cent see her as caring and 15 per cent as warm.

The public gives Mr Kinnock a better rating than Mr Foot on almost every quality: he is seen as more caring (42 per cent) and warm (31 per cent) than Mrs Thatcher but less tough (38 per cent), stubborn (33 per cent), or resolute (34 per cent). The findings suggest a sense of suspended judgment about Neil Kinnock as a leader.

But, over time, issues matter more than personalities. Current attitudes on key problems remain the main source of Conservative strength. On the handling of almost every subject except the health service the Conservatives continue to outlast Labour. Even on the volatile and increasingly salient questions of defence policy, the public continues to be heavily multilateralist, even if it is evenly divided on cruise.

Although party support has been unexpectedly stable over the last 18 months, there is no reason to suppose that this will continue. The factors that have loosened the glue

of party loyalty so spectacularly over the last 20 years are still at work.

Moreover, the essential weaknesses of each of the parties are still there. Labour's solid working-class base has been eroded by the spread of house ownership and the growth in non-manual employment. And its prospects are limited by its structure and its ideological involvements.

A year from now the process of reselection will start and news reports about the party will focus on the constituency troubles of some leading Labour MPs. The party is in financial straits and the current Employment Bill may make things far worse.

The Alliance, despite its 25 per cent of the votes last June, and its generally ineffectual image, has still to settle its internal disputes. The dualism of the two Davids may be far more damaging than any of the leadership troubles of the last few years. Moreover the Alliance will have great difficulty in securing publicity for anything save its quarrels. It must rely on stupidities by its larger rivals and a fortunate incidence of by-elections to reassess its prominence. It has a larger bridgehead than three years ago but the spectacular breakthrough of 1982 will be harder to repeat in 1985.

The Conservatives can look forward to four years in power. Yet their position is flawed. They have less support in votes than any Conservative government since 1922. They depend on a strong leader who is admired rather than loved; their secondary leaders are notably lacking in charisma or communication skills. The conflict between a middle-of-the-road pragmatism and a militantly free enterprise ideology has more divisive potential than ever before.

The economic future remains uncertain. It will be strange if, at the least, the Conservatives escape the mid-Parliament slump. Remember Orpington (1962)? Sutton and Cheam (1972)? Hillhead (1982)?

The author is a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford.

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Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Freezing out the urban terrorist

And finally, I had the melancholy and useless satisfaction of knowing that I solved this problem some years ago, and publicly announced my solution, too, though I did not expect anything to be done (nor was it), because the people who would have had to do the doing were those in charge of the telephone service; I have no expectation that British Telecom will be any more heedful than their predecessors, but I may as well repeat my solution anyway.

It is to change from our present telephone system of what is technically known as "Calling party release" to "Called party release". At present if I call you and you hang up but I don't, you remain connected to me. Second, nobody grumbled, except at the perishing cold, those who might be presumed to have caused us discomfort were not in *absentia*, nor was there any sense of outrage. Nobody even denounced the management for closing the cloakrooms as soon as the evacuation order was decided upon, and nobody ventured the opinion that they should have treated the telephone call as the hoax it was overwhelmingly likely (and in the event proved to be) to be.

First, it was noticeable that nobody at all was in doubt as to the meaning of the management's words, though "bomb", "telephone-call" and "danger" were not among them. Second, nobody grumbled, except at the perishing cold, those who might be presumed to have caused us discomfort were not in *absentia*, nor was there any sense of outrage. Nobody even denounced the management for closing the cloakrooms as soon as the evacuation order was decided upon, and nobody ventured the opinion that they should have treated the telephone call as the hoax it was overwhelmingly likely (and in the event proved to be) to be.

Meantime, a few conclusions can be drawn. It is little more than a decade since serious urban terrorism in civilized western societies began; before that, there was nothing to worry about, apart from the internecine wars of Chicago gangsters, a brief flurry by the IRA just before the Second World War, and the random actions of those who were collectively known as anarchists and who were so little regarded as a threat to society that years later they were still considered to be "mild-mannered".

Nowadays, the few terrible things that do happen to us are not the result of a few terrible things that do happen to us, though they are often the result of a few terrible things that do happen to us.

Language and person at airports than we get hysterical, or even seriously cross, when we are turned out of a theatre. Every now and again a real bomb goes off in a city far removed from areas of endemic political violence; unless it causes large numbers of casualties (particularly among horses) it now makes hardly a ripple across the public consciousness.

Baader-Meinhof Gangs, Red Army Fractives, Weathermen - they have killed people from time to time, but not more, I imagine, than are struck by lightning, or indeed are accounted for by the Charles Mansons and Dennis Nilsens and their like. (There are as many "ordinary" murders in Los Angeles in a single year as there have been corpses in Northern Ireland attributed to terrorism since the present "troubles" began.)

Of course, the hoisters have been beaten on the activities of the killers in a manner which is unique to our time, and there must be dozens of false alarms to every real emergency. That makes life more troublesome, as those who were wheezing about their business the day after our pavement vigil in the cold could testify; if it comes to that, there were, no doubt, people who had to leave before the end of the performance to catch their last trains and buses, though if the curtain had gone up on time they could have stayed to the end.

What does all that amount to? A few terrible deaths and injuries; a few terrible things for decades to come, that will remain true. Why, when in the interval of the resumed performance I met the spokesman who had made the original ominous announcement, I shook his hand warmly, in token that all was forgiven. And, in truth there was nothing to forgive.

Are lives seriously disrupted or

David Watt

What's left when the dust settles?

When the nuclear catastrophe film *The Day After* (which Britain will see tomorrow) was shown on American television, it was followed not only by a homily from a senior member of the government but also by a panel discussion of experts. The most interesting contribution to this session came from Dr Carl Sagan, a physicist from Cornell University, who has become a considerable TV personality in the United States, thanks to his skillful presentation of programmes about space. Sagan's complaint about *The Day After* was that it was far too soft. In his view, it grossly underestimates the horror of nuclear war by ignoring two of the most severe after-effects: darkness and cold.

The damage that might be done by this state of affairs depends, clearly, on its severity and duration. It is common ground that those who live beside oceans would be better off than others, because the sea acts as a store of heat. But if, as Mr Sagan and others now claim, the minimum temperature on the big American and Eurasian land masses after a 5,000-megaton war, were -23°C even in summer, and the light, after a 10,000-megaton war too little to support photosynthesis for many months, the biological consequences might well be the disappearance of huge tracts of vegetation resulting from a chain reaction, in the death of animals and in fearful famine.

This scenario is, or ought to be, music in the ears of any sensible person interested in peace. For if it is right, it has the priceless advantage of demonstrating to any American or Soviet leader that if he launches a massive nuclear attack it will produce his own destruction automatically. This is the first point: unlike the deterrents contained in the opponent's possession of nuclear weapons (which is dependent on many imponderables, such as will-power, invulnerability of missiles to first strike, and so forth) this deterrent is absolutely certain, and inherent in the nature of the earth and the sky. The second point is that (unlike President Reagan's "will o' the wisp of an infallible anti-missile defence) it is not destabilizing. It does not do away with nuclear weapons and the caution that goes with a nuclear stalemate. For the possibility of one's opponent using a strictly limited number of nuclear weapons and therefore avoiding a nuclear winter would remain; and with it, the necessity of possessing some nuclear weapons oneself.

The only thing is: is it true? I have consulted a few British scientists in this field and they are understandably cautious. There are many uncertainties in the hypothesis, and the actual figures of a likely temperature drop are highly sensitive to them. Using an only slightly different model of the rate and direction that particles normally spread in the atmosphere, and making slightly different assumptions of the quantities of soot produced, or the amount of cloud cover at the time of the explosions, or the exact amount of dispersion to be expected from rain or wind, one comes up (as another group of scientists in California have done) with a temperature drop of only 10 to 15 degrees, rising again to no more than 3 degrees below normal within 90 days.

Nevertheless, everyone - including the authors of a Soviet study - seems to agree (a) that temperature disturbances of some kind are very plausible and (b) that the effect of soot particles is a neglected and important factor in the post-nuclear equation which ought to have much more study. There will now, presumably, be a pause while a considerable dog-fight in the scientific community takes place. Meanwhile, up in the



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AIMS FOR THE ALLIANCE

Nato foreign ministers are meeting in Brussels amid greater uncertainty than usual about the aims and prospects of the alliance. On the one hand there can be optimism that the military balance between East and West is in reasonable shape and that recently elected governments have been able to start implementing the Nato decision of 1979 on intermediate nuclear weapons. Clearly there is still a reassuring bedrock of confidence and continuity in the alliance. On the other hand there has been an increase in public unease which has expressed itself through opposition parties, primarily in Britain and West Germany, which have broken away from the central consensus on security.

If these parties do not return to the centre they could make the alliance itself an issue in future elections. It will therefore be more important than ever over the next few years for Nato to develop policies which are not only rational in themselves, but which also retain broad confidence among electorates. Public confidence in government is just as much part of security as military preparedness and economic prosperity. This is not just a matter of public relations and argument. The majority of voters should be credited with sufficient realism to distinguish the central issues of the alliance from peripheral disagreement, and to see when the alliance is properly representing the security interests of its members.

Controversy over missile deployments is not really a central issue. It is a symptom of a deeper feeling that the alliance has been losing its sense of direction and consequently its cohesion. Several areas of disagreement are involved. The Americans feel that Europe is not contributing

funds appropriate to its wealth, and that it is insufficiently conscious of the extent to which its security interests could be threatened from outside the Nato area by interruptions in the supply of oil or other raw materials. Europeans reply that if they spend more they will damage their precarious economic health and thereby reduce their security more than by forgoing some weapons or men. Many also argue that they do understand their dependence on lifelines to the Middle East and elsewhere but merely disagree with the Americans on the best means of protecting them.

There have also been growing debates about the extent to which Nato defence depends on the early use of nuclear weapons. New developments in guidance system and other areas of technology make it possible to have a much more effective conventional defence, so that the use of nuclear weapons could be delayed, but these new weapons are expensive. Much could be saved by better standardization of Nato equipment but at some point electorates may have to be asked whether they want to make the financial sacrifices necessary to realize their wholly understandable desire for less reliance on nuclear weapons – particularly the West German electorate since that is the critical part of Nato's frontier.

Meanwhile Nato will have to tackle another major source of disquiet, which is the widespread feeling in Europe that it has lost sight of its obligation, regularly reaffirmed in Nato documents, to pursue security through political and diplomatic means as well as military. The two tracks of Nato policy – military preparedness and negotiation – are not confined to the decision on missile deployments. There is no

doubt that the sharp deterioration in relations between the super powers has contributed a lot to the fears which have spawned the protest movements. Obviously Nato cannot return to the optimism of the early days of detente, which have been shown to have fostered illusions about possible breakthroughs in East-West relations. The fundamental antagonisms will remain. But there can be dialogue and negotiation without inflated hopes or unnecessary concessions, and this is increasingly necessary both to reassure Western electorates and also to remind the Soviets that the West is always open for business on the basis of fair dealing.

It is in this area in particular that Lord Carrington will be able to make an outstanding contribution. His appointment as Secretary General is therefore not only welcome but just right in its timing. No one can accuse him of having illusions about communism, yet he is neither aggressive nor ideological in his approach. His calm pragmatism is just what is needed at this moment. Coupled with immense diplomatic skills and wide contacts it should enable him to reduce Atlantic differences and nudge the alliance into a more coherent approach to the Soviet Union. If successful this will also help to persuade doubting members of the public that Nato is not just a war-fighting machine but a political alliance dedicated to certain values. As Lord Carrington said in his Alastair Buchan Memorial lecture in April: "The West must be true to its own values. It is the Leninist tradition which is one of conflict, not cooperation. Our own tradition must be for the peaceful resolution of conflict through energetic and forceful dialogue."

A LITTLE PIECE OF ENGLAND

Calke Abbey is not one of the great English country houses. It is a handsome baroque pile of anonymous authorship put up at the start of the eighteenth century and given neo-classical trimmings a hundred years later. It sits low in the seclusion of its deer park, grouped with church and stables and clumps of trees, in the middle of the populous north Midlands but withdrawn from them.

Inside, as if the outcome of a successful experiment with time, there is preserved fresh and in full the furnishings and hangings, the furniture, specimen cabinets and bric-a-brac, the tackroom and workshops, of a Victorian estate. It is that – the harmony of its surroundings and integrity of its interior – that makes Calke Abbey extra-special. The calke of art historians and heritage buffs in extolling the place may owe something to the fact that they have only just been able to get into it. Even discounting the highest flights of enthusiasm Calke Abbey is without question worth preserving intact.

Its remarkable resistance to the march of time is explained by the recurrent reclusive tendency of the Harpur-Crewe family, which has owned the property since 1622. One baronet or another would settle into his vast estates to manage them in a benevolent and eccentric fashion, turning his back on society beyond the demesne, doing perhaps the duty of high sheriff of the county when his turn came round, or raising a troop of yeomanry in case of national emergency. Otherwise

he would be wrapt in solitary pursuits, of which 200 cases of stuffed birds are the only memorial.

The mansion being vast, a new occupant had no need to clear the clutter of his predecessor: he chose another room.

And so the accumulation and fossilization continued, far surpassing Eddington or Osborne. The later Harpur-Crewe were slow to embrace the amenities of modernity. The motor car came to Calke in 1949, the electric light in 1960, the arts of tax avoidance never.

And that is now the trouble. Vast capital taxes are being exacted on the death of the present owner's brother in 1981. Prudent administration would have reduced the liability, but would it have tolerated the inconvenience of keeping everything exactly as it was? Mr Harpur-Crewe has offered house, contents and park to the nation in lieu of part of the tax bill. The Treasury would accept it if the National Trust would in turn accept it. The trust cannot without funds for repair and endowment for maintenance, requirements put at £3.6 million and £4.4 million respectively. It has accordingly been proposed that a further 7 or 8,000 acres of "non-heritage" land be accepted by the Treasury in lieu of tax as capital sum and endowment.

That rational solution has been rejected. It is clear from the minister's speech in the adjournment debate on Monday night that the proposal was judged and fell according to the norms of

and in Ethiopia have also been neglected because the menfolk have been killed or taken for the army. Crops have also been destroyed and animals slaughtered. How, then, could the military feed the army from their own resources?

Even if food sent for relief reaches the people for whom it is intended, which is unlikely unless it is distributed by international agencies, it can only assist the military by releasing local supplies.

The violations of human rights in Ethiopia are carried out by the junta and its local commissioners. The West is as responsible for allowing this situation to continue as the Soviet Union, which has armed the junta to the teeth. It is sad that many people of good will who give to various appeals for Ethiopia may be seen as enemies by the very people they wish to help.

Yours faithfully,
MARY DINES,
48 Brownlow Road, N11.
November 26.

Oxford admissions

From Mrs G. M. DANCE
Sir, We have now had time in which to consider the new arrangements for admission to Oxford University, and the more we consider them the less happy we are. Somewhat unusually, I find myself in agreement with the Master of Marlowe College in his opposition to them, but I feel it should be stressed that many of us in state schools feel, somewhat cynically, that the press-

internal government financing. The tax would be foregone, there would be hypothecation (dead wood) of revenue, there would have to be reallocation of funds from other programmes, a precedent would be set and a bad example.

In fact the precedent and example, if any, would be excellent. A country house deemed worthy to be preserved for the enrichment of our culture and the enjoyment of the public would be maintained from the rents of agricultural land dedicated to that purpose. That is the source from which such houses always were maintained, and what better source for the future? To be acquiring public assets of an agricultural kind while strenuously selling off public assets of an industrial and commercial kind might be thought to be slightly embarrassing. But another of the present Government's priorities is to arrest the decline in the number of agricultural tenancies. Ministers have a Bill in the Lords to that end. By rejecting the "in lieu" proposal for the Harpur-Crewe estate they are rejecting one sure way of keeping the bulk of that land in the rented sector and actually propelling it out.

The minister now urges the interested bodies to put their heads together and come up with an alternative scheme for securing Calke Abbey. One hopes that may be possible. But their heads have already spent a lot of time together without an alternative being found. The prospect is not very good. Meanwhile the best chance will very soon be lost.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH DEAN,
The Hall,
West Brabourne,
Ashford, Kent.
December 5.

Prison terms of unequal value

From Mrs Sarah McCabe

Sir, The writer of your third leader, "The place of parole" (December 3) drew attention to the principles of punishment upon which the Home Secretary will rely in excluding from release on licence certain categories of offences.

These general principles, retribution for the specific offence committed and deterrence from similar offences which might be contemplated either by the offender himself or by others, are, of course, the basis of the judges' calculation of the appropriate length of imprisonment for the mischief done by each offence.

Until now this calculation was relatively simple; custom and occasional guidance from the appeal courts established that such and such an amount of fraud or theft, in such or such circumstances, would merit a sentence of, say, five years, while violence or damage of a particular kind or degree would deserve the same.

It is generally assumed that the establishment of the parole system did not disturb this calculation because each man or woman sentenced would have an equal chance of release on parole when the risk of reoffending and prospects of resettlement were taken into account. In other words, the sentencing system and the system of parole were deemed to be separate and distinct.

The Home Secretary's statement of November 30 changed all that.

Since the sentences for certain classes of offence are not to carry with them the likelihood of parole, like sentences no longer have equal value. Thus, sentences of more than five years offer the possibility of parole to thieves or conmen but not to drug traffickers or violent offenders. The sentencing system and the parole system have become interdependent.

In these circumstances it must be assumed that judges, both in

sentencing and in the process of appeal, will have to consider the different values of sentences over five years that are now applicable to different categories of offences.

Will we now see an upward movement in sentences for serious fraud or theft to catch up with non-parole sentences for serious violence or a downward movement in sentences for violence to match their parole equivalents? Or has the sentencing system, which has been calculated in units of time for a general measure of the mischief inflicted, been shattered beyond repair?

Yours faithfully,
SARAH McCABE,
1 Stoke Place,
Old Headington, Oxford.
December 5.

Disruption of concert

From Mr Anthony Sinclair

Sir, Miss Belgrave in her letter last Saturday (December 3), expressed a preference for the campaign for Soviet Jewry to be carried out other than by disrupting concerts. Through your columns, I would like to assure her that all such methods are used.

The objective of our campaign is to secure publicity for our repressed co-religionists in the Soviet Union.

On October 30, for example, a march through Hyde Park to the Soviet Embassy was supported by 7,000 marchers – Jewish and Christian. It was peaceful in the extreme. There was no violence. But (significantly?) there were also no reports whatsoever of quality London press.

If such expressions of deep feeling were given the publicity they warrant – contrast recent events in Warrington – other, more vocal, avenues would be unnecessary.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY SINCLAIR,
58 Lake View,
Edgware, Middlesex.
December 5.

Lines of beauty

From Mr Joseph Dean

Sir, May I put in a plea for the revival of traditional tree avenues along the routes of suitable motorways? The scattered planting of ill-assorted trees at irregular intervals, which seems at present to pass for tree-scape planning, creates a scruffy sort of landscape in places where lines of noble classical trees would in due course add beauty and dignity to the scene.

Somebody will object about leaving leaves, but I suspect this is more a railway than a roadway problem. The wind and wheels on motorways seem very swift to sweep aside the slush which leaves might otherwise lie and in any event the trees should be planted as far back from the edge of the roadway as possible.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH DEAN,
The Hall,
West Brabourne,
Ashford, Kent.
December 5.

A matter of title

From the Chairman of the Social Science Research Council

Sir, Professor Fletcher (December 5) and your readers may like to know that on November 18 the Privy Council were pleased to approve, on her Majesty's behalf, the proposal from my Council to change its name to the Economic and Social Research Council.

The new name will take effect from January 3, 1984. Now that the change has been agreed our intention is to concentrate on getting on with the job.

Yours faithfully,
G. MARY DANCE, Headmistress,
The Grammar School,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire.
November 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Private belief and public reference

From the Archbishop of York

Sir, I have so far refrained from replying to your criticisms of my statement on public faith in the hope that others would do the job better than myself – as indeed many of them have. Before the correspondence closes, however, I would like to add two further points, both of which are spelt out at much greater length in my book, *Church and Nation in a Secular Age*.

The first concerns the question of truth. As I understand your editorial (November 21), you were proposing an extreme subjectivist view of religious truth, which has the merit of putting it beyond the possibility of refutation, but in the long run renders it uninteresting. To make truth claims which go beyond mere subjectivism, as I myself would wish to do, is inevitably to enter into the public realm and to imply the existence of concepts and categories in terms of which the claims can be substantiated.

A belief is not necessarily true just because a lot of people share it, but it cannot even be claimed as true in anything but a trivial sense unless it is in some measure publicly accessible.

My concept of public faith has more to do with this intellectual and emotional accessibility of religion than with the kind of head-counting mistakenly envisaged by some of your correspondents. To take a simple but relevant example, what

meaning could be given to the title, "The way of the Cross", without its public frame of reference in Christian history?

Clifford Longley (feature, December 5) is right to see that the corollary of public faith is a much more searching commitment and this is my second point. But he is wrong, surely, to tie this to the extraordinary notion that what the Church has to say is "true, guaranteed and validated by the inefinable judgment of world Christendom".

It is precisely this interpretation of public faith which rightly scares some of its critics. There is need for a much more subtle ecumenism, one which welcomes, indeed encourages, great diversity, yet finds a common point of reference in the truth which transcends all its particular expressions.

Let me stress the point again. Public faith, as I understand it, is not a nationally or internationally imposed creed. Nor is it the lowest common denominator of popular piety. It is the framework of assumptions, mostly drawn from the great historic expressions of religious faith, which makes the public articulation of personal faith both possible and fruitful.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN EBOR,
Bishop of
York.
December 7.

again; or who fails physically to vacate on the completion date; or who is some other exponent of the infinitely variable art of conveyancing upset.

As for expense, whatever the documentary simplicity of a transaction, there can still be endless hassles of the sort mentioned above, with wear and tear, time and trouble, every bit as great as that, say, in a heart-rending fight over the custody of a child.

It is an occupational hazard of a solicitor to have chalked up against him, cumulatively, the delays of everybody else with whom he has to deal – in conveyancing matters not specially numerous, perhaps, but in most departments of work multifarious.

It is not easy for him to explain this, or the difficulty of much of his work, short of conducting a course for his clients on the law and its practice – an unseemly offering one feels.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
9 Offington Gardens,
Worthing,
West Sussex.
December 6.

Penalty for KAL 007

From Sir Philip Goodhart, MP for Beckenham (Conservative)

Sir, It is now three months since the Korean Airline, KAL 007, was shot down by the Soviet air force. Since then, numerous international bodies have passed resolutions calling upon the Soviet Union to pay compensation, but it is plain that the Soviet Government has no intention of paying up.

Meanwhile, I note that in recent years there has been a substantial Soviet incursion into the British cruise ship market. This is done through CTC, an entirely Soviet-owned though British-registered company. Since 1979, the number of bed/night places offered by CTC to British tourists has increased from 116,400 to 306,600 in 1983.

CTC's depreciation and insurance costs are entirely covered by the Soviet Union. The wages paid to the Soviet seamen on board are about one-eighth of those paid to British seamen. The cost of the marine fuels used on board the CTC ships is

estimated to be a quarter of the prices paid on the world market by British cruise operators.

These Soviet cruise ships were banned from American ports by President Carter, soon after the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. The Italian Government is also limiting the number of Soviet cruises from Italian ports.

Should we not consider imposing a ticket surcharge or boarding fee, of perhaps £25 per person, on those taking Soviet or Soviet-subsidized cruises? We might encourage other countries to take similar action. The money raised by this surcharge could be paid into a Korean airline compensation fund. The money would be divided amongst the heirs and relations of the 269 people who were killed in that disaster.

We would thus limit unfair Soviet competition in one area, and help the victims of the Russian outrage in another area.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GOODHART,
House of Commons.
December 1.

Airlines' safety

From Sir Archibald Hope

Sir, On December 8 it will be exactly seven years since the Air Transport Users' Committee (of which I was then a member and later chairman) issued its report on European air fares. In this we showed that high fares in Europe were to a large extent caused by overmanning and low productivity of the European airlines, mostly nationally owned.

Our conclusions were reinforced 18 months later when British Airways, in their report for 1977-78, admitted that compared with eight foreign airlines (of their choosing) BA's productivity was less than 60 per cent of those with whom it was compared.

Mr Moss Evans suggests (December

8) that the cuts in manpower, etc, which Lord King has courageously made may lead to lower safety standards. He should look again at the operations of the major US airlines as we did. Their safety record is second to none. They are all privately owned. So why should BA be any different?

Rumour has it that BA should shed another 10,000 employees to reach true efficiency. Perhaps Mr Evans has heard this story and is quite properly trying to protect his members' jobs. But that has nothing to do with safety.

COURT CIRCULAR



BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 8: Mr R. M. Evans was received in audience by The Queen this morning and kissed hands on his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Tripoli.

Mr Evans had the honour of being received by The Queen.

His Excellency Dr Miroslav Houska was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to The Queen: Dr Josef Vaculík Jarolím (Counsellor), Mr Zdenek Vánek (First Attaché), Mr Zdenek Vánek (First Secretary) and Mr Pavol Láček (Second Secretary).

Madame Marie Houska was given the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

Sir Antony Acland (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who was given the honour of being received by The Queen was present, and the Gentleman of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr W. H. Fullerton (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Mogadishu) and Mrs Fullerton had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mr R. O. Miles was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands on his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Tripoli.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. E. Griffith-Jones and Miss V. A. M. Brown

The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Sir Eric Griffith-Jones and Lady Griffith-Jones of Rogate, West Sussex, and Virginia, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. M. Brown, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr J. I. Board and Miss D. P. C. Brookes
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mrs R. W. Parker, of Upper Wield, Hampshire, and the late Mr G. F. Bond, and Denise, daughter of Mrs P. Brooks, of the Isle of Arran, and the late Dr E. Brooks.

Mr D. Channing-Williams and Miss T. J. Kettles
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Major-General and Mrs J. W. Channing-Williams, of Inkpen, and Tania, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T. W. Robson, of Compton Beauchamp.

Mr J. Davies and Miss D. E. Rogers
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs J. C. H. Lee, of Green Apple Orchard, Tots, Puffin and Deborah, daughter of Mr D. G. Rogers, Bishop of Stowford, and Mrs E. M. Rogers, of the Dower House, Aldsworth, Emsworth.

Mr M. D. Haviland and Miss H. V. Wierslik
The engagement is announced between Quentin Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Mark Haviland, of 6 Immrama Place, Dromas, Sydney, Australia, and Hilary Vivien, third daughter of Dr and Mrs George Wernik, of Eastleigh House, Wernik, Oxford.

Mr A. Reid and Miss C. H. McDowell
The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Alan Reid, of Mowden Hall, Mowden, Suffolk, and Clare, elder daughter of Mr Keith McDowell, of 42 Gibson Square, NW1, and Mrs Shirley McDowell, of North Lodge, East Hill Road, Oxted, Surrey.

COURT AND SOCIAL

Mrs Miles had the honour of being received by The Queen.

The Queen this afternoon opened the new London South Western District Office of the Post Office at Nine Elms.

Having been received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (the Baron Phillips) and the Chairman of the Post Office (Mr Ron Desling), The Queen toured the sorting office, met members of the staff and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Mr John Dugdale, Mr Robert Fellowes and Major Hugh Lindsay attended.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, this morning, visited Benenden School, Cranbrook, Kent, and was received on arrival by the Headmistress (Miss Janet Allen).

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, this evening attended a Council Meeting at 35, Belgrave Square, London SW1.

Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, today opened the Civic Centre, Ashford, Kent, and, later, as Patron of The Royal British Legion, the Village opened the Churchill Rehabilitation and Assessment Centre at the Village in Maidstone, Kent.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Chairman of the Appeal (Sir Robert Clark).

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

By command of The Queen the Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening upon the departure of the Governor-General of Fiji and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Prince of Wales has granted to the whole of St John Ambulance in London the right to be known as the London, Prince of Wales, District.

Birthdays today

Mr M. Dransfield and Miss C. Stephens
The engagement is announced between Martin, younger son of Mr and Mrs K. Dransfield, of Harrogate, Yorkshire, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M. J. Stephens of West Berlin.

Mr N. J. Jewell and Miss B. A. M. Clifford
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs Derek Jewell, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Ann-Marie, only daughter of Brigadier and Mrs R. J. Clifford, of Bridge End, Warwick.

Mr J. D. Kellock and Miss C. O. R. Hall
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Dr and Mrs T. D. Kellock of Estbrook House, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, and Cleo, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs G. R. Hall of White Post Farm, Fressingfield, Suffolk.

Mr P. R. Lloyd and Miss S. F. Rawlings
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs P. R. Lloyd, of Barrow, Cumbria, and Sophie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Rawlings, of Swiss Cottage, London.

Mr R. M. Worthy and Miss C. M. Taylor
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Regan flies in with cold comfort for Europe

The irrepressible Mr Donald Regan, US Treasury Secretary, flew into London yesterday on his way to Brussels, armed with a soothing mixture of American good intentions designed to calm passions inflamed by the sky-high dollar and massive US budget deficits.

Just as Mr Regan was telling us about Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, was blasting American economic policy in the House of Commons.

Mr Peter Tappall, a stockbroker, MP, with Keynesian inclinations, provoked Mrs Thatcher into a blistering denunciation of US deficits after suggesting she might like to endorse the inflationary policies which appeared to have been highly successful in the US. "I would rather be in our position, which is sustainable, than theirs, which I believe will cause great trouble in 12 months," she declared.

Meanwhile, the pound steadied on foreign exchange markets after a flurry of selling on Tuesday and yesterday morning ending the day 5 points down at a new closing low of £1.4415. Its effective index lost 0.4 to 82.5, reflecting earlier losses against European currencies.

Mr Regan, who called on the Prime Minister last night, may have been glad to slip next door to enjoy the hospitality of Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, though not a man renowned for pulling his punches, is unlikely to have gone in for the kind of tongue-lashing of which Mrs Thatcher earlier indulged in.

Mr Regan said yesterday that it was often forgotten that state and local governments in the US were running big surpluses — about \$65 billion a year — which offset the impact of the \$200 billion federal deficit on capital markets.

This is true enough. But figures for central and local government deficits calculated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development still show the US running the biggest budget gap of the five largest industrial economies.

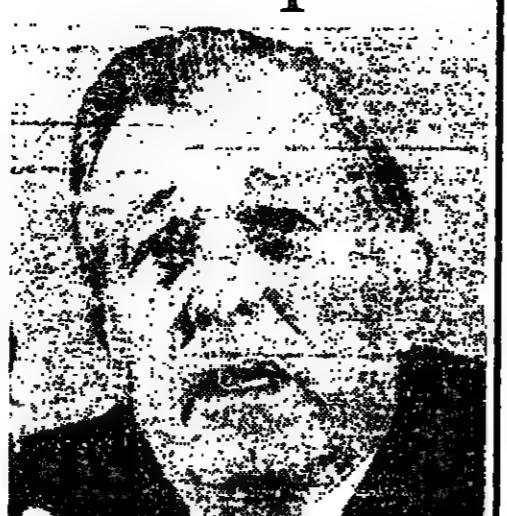
Going for brokers Greenwell

W Greenwell is expected today to become the fifth leading British stockbroker to announce that outside interests have bought a large stake in its business.

Senior partners Mr Richard Lawson and Mr Gordon Pepper declined to say anything last night but lesser members of the firm was told enough to say: "I've been told there is no statement tonight. There may be something in the morning."

A company with a strong attachment to Greenwell is Mercantile House, which the energetic and visionary Mr John Baskerville has developed from humble money broking into a big broking and fund management group with a powerful presence in London and New York.

It is an obvious candidate for three reasons: Mr Philip Greenwell, the former senior partner who guided the family firm to a place in stockbroking's top six is on the board; the importance of dealing capacity in Mr Baskerville's planning for Mercantile House's future as an integrated financial services group; and the parallel thinking already evinced by Exco, which has much in common with Mercantile House. Exco sought to buy an interest in brokers Wood Mackenzie, which, like



Regan: little hope of cutting budget deficits

Mr Regan held out little hope of cutting budget deficits next year, with the election campaign well underway. The US, he said, was "a nation of selfish interests". But he accepted that something would have to be done for future years, laying the emphasis squarely on the need to cut federal spending and especially social security entitlement programmes.

While undoubtedly realistic, this is cold comfort for Europe. Even if President Reagan runs again and wins, he may not have Congress on his side.

Mr Regan topped his cocktail with a dash of hemlock. The federal government, he said, had no intention of laying down the law on the vexed issue of unitary taxation unless the special commission to examine the matter, now expected to report in late February, failed to come up with an agreeable solution.

This is not what the European and Japanese governments, who believe the commission — heavily weighted towards state interests — is simply an excuse to put off decisions until the elections are over, want to hear. No doubt EEC ministers will say so forcibly to Mr Regan today.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Profit-taking hits Dow

New York (AP-Dow Jones). — Shares were drifting lower in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was about four points lower at 270, and declines were running about seven-to-six ahead of closing stocks.

The Transportation Average was up by nearly 3 points at 612 — only a fraction below its record of 612.57, set on November 22. Trading was moderately active, with volume reading about 32 million shares.

Mr Alfred Harris, a senior vice-president for Josephthal & Co, said: "We're getting a continuation of the profit-taking, tax selling and portfolio adjustments that are typical of late November trading, which meant a polling readjustment

WALL STREET

that's running behind schedule."

International Business Machines was up a point at 119%, General Motors up 1/2 at 75%, Telenet up 1 at 157%, Norfolk Southern up 10% to 64%, Data General up 1/2 at 34%, Diebold, up 1/2 at 78 and Time Inc. up 1/2 to 65%.

Eastman Kodak was 74%, down 1/2; Associated Dry Goods 63%, down 2%; Sun 43%, up 1%; Delta Airlines 42%, up 1/2; Gulf Oil 42%, off 1/2; Cooper Laboratories 39%, down 1/4; Maytag 32%, off 1/4; Cummins Engine 81%, up 1/2; and American Telephone & Telephone 64%, off 1/2.

Italy likely to relent over import quotas

Newsprint dispute nears end

A dispute over newsprint supplies, which threatened to cost British newspaper publishers an extra £2m this month, is likely to be settled in Brussels today.

Telephone discussions between Mr Paul Channon, the Trade Minister, and the Italian Industry Minister, Signor Renato Altissimo, are thought to have resolved a row that caused heated exchanges at the EEC's Foreign Affairs Council two weeks ago.

The Italians have been blocking a supplementary quota for duty-free paper imports from Finland and Canada — arguing that they have 20,000 surplus tonnes in Sardinia and that EEC goods must take preference over outside supplies.

The Newspaper Publishers Association has been stressing that Britain is hard- hit, having used up its 1983 duty-free allocation of 1,062,000 tonnes in the middle of last

month. The EEC-wide quota shortage is put at 260,000 tonnes.

Although West German publishers have also used up their allowance, Britain's needs for December are put at between 100,000 and 150,000 tonnes.

Eagle's VG share offer flops as Allianz talks go on

By Jeremy Warner

Representatives of Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance company, yesterday met with Eagle Star directors in an attempt to find a basis for an agreed takeover bid.

Allianz has already promised to top a £914m offer for Eagle Star, Britain's sixth largest insurer, made by BAT Industries but has so far been repeatedly spurned by the Eagle Star board which has made clear its preference for BAT.

The Eagle Star board suffered an embarrassment last night when it was disclosed that the offer for sale by tender of shares in the group's high-technology offshoot, VG Instruments, had been a resounding flop.

Of the 12.5 million shares on offer, only about half were applied for. At the minimum tender price of 130p a share, VG, is valued at £65m. It is the third tender offer to be under-subscribed within two weeks.

The price of Eagle Star shares in the stock market rose to 714p at one stage yesterday but closed 2p up on the day at 709p. This compares with BAT's last offer of 660p a share and the promise, normally regarded as a formality in British mergers, and one, who said he was in favour of the bid.

On the takeover front, Sir Denis Mountain, the Eagle Star chairman, is said to be against Allianz at any price but he said that he would be duty bound to recommend the highest offer to his shareholders.

Yesterday's meetings took place at Eagle Star's London headquarters. Allianz was represented by its overseas as ago on whether to continue the takeover battle or bow out and take substantial profits on its existing 30 per cent stake in Eagle Star were dismissed by Allianz.

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Sir Denis: talks will not be acrimonious

Sir Denis: talks will

BOC shares soar on £95m profit

The market clearly liked the full-year results from BOC Group yesterday, marking the shares up 14p to a record 261p.

The profits of £95.8m down from last year's £102.6m, were not out of line with the most recent market estimates, but the stated figure concealed the fact that the underlying second half recovery in profits has been more marked than most BOC watchers had been bargaining for.

Mr Richard Giordano, the group's £500,000 a year chief executive, was cautious yesterday about predicting the prospects for the present financial year, but the benefits of revived growth in the US particularly are likely to feed through to the bottom line in significant measure. Some brokers have revised their forecasts up as high as £135m, and their optimism does not look way out of order at this stage.

Industrial gases remained the core of the business with the second half recovery pushing up operating profit on BOC's modified historical cost basis from £103.6m to £121.6m. The fast-growing health care business turned in £55.3m against £39.6m.

The two problem divisions, carbon and carbide, which lost £10.5m, and welding, whose losses more than doubled to £13.8m both included one-off costs, £8.4m associated with the start-up of BOC's new plants in South Carolina and Texas, and

Bass

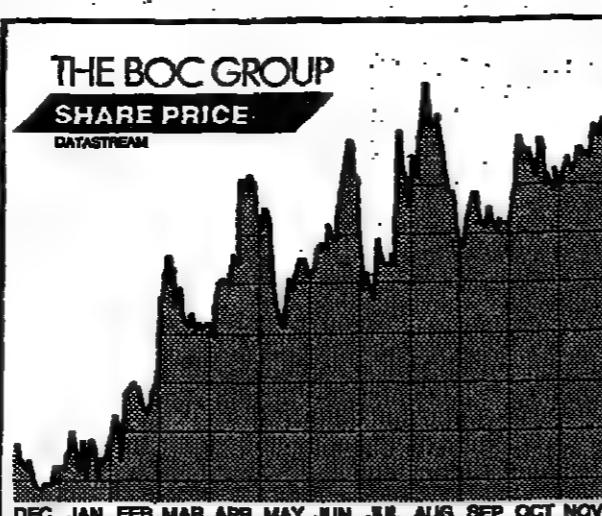
Bass, Britain's biggest brewer overcame the trend in the rest of the depressed beer market in the year to the end of September.

EVANS OF LEEDS PLC

Property Investment Group

UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1983

	Half year to 30th Sept. 1983	30th Sept. 1982
Gross rents receivable	£3,119,912	£2,886,782
Interest receivable	220,440	93,241
Sundry income	1,583	2,060
Profit from development and sale of properties	27,972	28,773
 Less interest charges and other expenses	3,269,909	3,010,856
Profit before taxation	1,442,180	1,335,400
Interim dividend of 1.25p (1.25p) per share payable 6th January, 1984.	1,827,729	1,675,456



ally taken above the line. Therefore £190m looks like giving the same property profits.

GUS

Great Universal Stores may not be spearheading the retailing revolution but its no-nonsense approach to how it runs its money-losing order business and organises its own balance sheet is reflected in its defensive strengths.

Interim profits, ahead by almost £10m to £92.2m, were a little better than expected and held out the prospect of at least £20m of high quality profits for the full year. The first half is traditionally weaker for the mail order business - GUS's names include Marshall Ward, John England and many more - but GUS is increasing market share and currently holds about 38 per cent.

Bad debts are under strict control - held at about last year's level - through GUS's sophisticated CCN credit control system, said to be the best in the business.

The multiple shops - including Morrison's Just Pantis Plus - are trading much better than at this time last year, helped by the boom in spending.

Th defered profits provision has risen to a hefty 21.70m. This conservative piece of accounting underpins the whole balance sheet. Depreciation is also conservative at £29m against £20.9m.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES	
Markets in £ per tonne	
Coffee, green, sorted	235.50-262.50
Coconut oil, sorted	232.50-254.50
Crude oil, £ per barrel	251.50-275.50
Vegetable oil	233.50-257.50

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	
Unofficial prices	
British Standard Tin	100.00-102.00
Silver in Pounds per Troy ounce	100.00-102.00
Wheat in £ per tonne	100.00-102.00

LONDON GOLD EXCHANGE	
Cash	100.00-102.00
Three months	100.00-102.00
1/2C	100.00-102.00
1C	100.00-102.00
2C	100.00-102.00
3C	100.00-102.00
4C	100.00-102.00
5C	100.00-102.00
6C	100.00-102.00
7C	100.00-102.00
8C	100.00-102.00
9C	100.00-102.00
10C	100.00-102.00
11C	100.00-102.00
12C	100.00-102.00
13C	100.00-102.00
14C	100.00-102.00
15C	100.00-102.00
16C	100.00-102.00
17C	100.00-102.00
18C	100.00-102.00
19C	100.00-102.00
20C	100.00-102.00
21C	100.00-102.00
22C	100.00-102.00
23C	100.00-102.00
24C	100.00-102.00
25C	100.00-102.00
26C	100.00-102.00
27C	100.00-102.00
28C	100.00-102.00
29C	100.00-102.00
30C	100.00-102.00
31C	100.00-102.00
32C	100.00-102.00
33C	100.00-102.00
34C	100.00-102.00
35C	100.00-102.00
36C	100.00-102.00
37C	100.00-102.00
38C	100.00-102.00
39C	100.00-102.00
40C	100.00-102.00
41C	100.00-102.00
42C	100.00-102.00
43C	100.00-102.00
44C	100.00-102.00
45C	100.00-102.00
46C	100.00-102.00
47C	100.00-102.00
48C	100.00-102.00
49C	100.00-102.00
50C	100.00-102.00
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MSC training set to get a re-vamp

By Jeremy Warner

The Manpower Services Commission will spend £5.3m on small business and enterprise training this financial year and around £7.7m next.

This is still a small amount by comparison with what is spent by government on other forms of training but it has grown rapidly from small beginnings in 1977 and is still the only form of direct government funding for training in this field.

Unfortunately the four enterprise courses offered by the Manpower Services Commission suffer from a near fatal flaw. They are run under the Training Opportunities Programme which excludes all but a tiny minority of the sort of people to whom small business training might be useful.

That is why under TOP you must be unemployed, 19 years of age or older and out of full-time education for at least two years. The category of people to whom MSC small business training is available traditionally account for only 1 per cent of the small businesses formed.

The effectiveness of the training and what is on offer might also be called into doubt. Two out of three London job centres contacted by The Times were unable to offer any advice on training in the small business field despite the fact that the job centres are expected to provide the main way of promoting the courses.

There is evidence to suggest that some of the polytechnics and business schools which receive funding for small business training regard the MSC as little more than a gravy train while there is a general lack of consistency, standard of content, and direction among the courses offered in different parts of the country.

Catch-22 for small firms

■ Several small firms have run into a "Catch-22" problem with the "funded consultancy scheme" operated by the Design Council, but funded by the Department of Trade and Industry. The scheme is intended to help small firms use specialist consultants to design new or update old products. But the conditions laid down by the DTI specify that a company must employ at least 50 people to be eligible.

The result is that several successful small firms can get no grant until they employ more staff but dare not take on any more employees until they get help to develop the new product.

£20,000 prizes from bank

■ The National Westminster Bank is providing cash prizes of £20,000 in a competition to encourage enterprise among small businesses. The 1984 first prize is 50 per cent higher than this year at £15,000.

The prize of £5,000 will be split between three runners-up.

Companies entering the competition must demonstrate successful innovation and show how they will invest the cash in their companies. The competition is organised by Venture Capital Report and is open to small firms.

MR FRIDAY Ken Payne



"I was rather hoping you'd be an executive of a multi-billion dollar American corporation offering to buy me out!"

A study of the environment for small businesses in the member states of the European Community has been published. It was carried out by the Economic Intelligence Unit for the United Kingdom Organising Committee for the European Year of the Small and Medium Sized Enterprise.

The purpose of the study was to collect comparative information on the legal and economic

environment for small businesses in the Community and attempt to rank these environments in order of favourability to profit maximization by existing small businesses.

Call for tax reform

■ The Government is being urged to reform company tax radically by the Association of Independent Businesses. If the system was changed so that it encouraged businesses that wanted to expand, the Inland Revenue would have time to spend less time worrying about "evasion schemes", the AIB says.

The AIB's proposals for reform have been submitted to the Inland Revenue and Government ministers and include: relief for real increases in stock, debtors and working capital resulting from business expansion rather than inflation and allowing dividends in private companies against income in the same way as interest on loans in order to encourage equity expansion.

■ The London Enterprise Agency is throwing its small business training courses open to entrepreneurs from all over the country. Previously they had been available to Londoners only.

The courses, which are run in conjunction with the Polytechnic of Central London, are available to those already running businesses as well as those still in employment who are thinking of the possibility.

Vicky Serpent, the Agency's training manager, said the decision to go nationwide recognised the general dearth of small business courses outside those run by the agency. The courses are run as a series of four linked weekends over a period of 2-3 months and cost £200, a price that includes meals and accommodation.

■ The Co-operative Bank is holding its standard charge for corporate customers for 1984 at current rates - 35p per £100 of debit turnover. The Co-operative Bank is the only bank which publishes its business tariff. Most other banks are likely to suggest higher charges to their business customers next year but the lack of information about tariffs makes comparison difficult.

■ The EEC climate

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The purpose of the study was to collect comparative information on the legal and economic

Money in those dry-ski slopes

By Judith Stares

Owners of undulating land might like to consider investing in a boom leisure industry. For a capital outlay of approximately £400,000 it is possible to establish a top-class artificial ski slope which is profitable.

Such an arrangement has been well-proven by the largest dry ski slope in England at Robinwood Hill in Gloucestershire shown with a learner, left. Once the area was devoted to farmland, but it is now host to a 250 metre slope used by some 400 each day, paying from £2.80 per hour for the pleasure of learning how to slide and turn with skill.

Alan Hull is a director and instructor and has been with the Gloucester Ski Centre since its launch in 1976. He now

has the kind of money needed to run a slope profitably.

He also believes that it is essential to offer après-ski conviviality, and floodlight skiing for evening customers.

One-woman mine detector

By Sally Watts

Offer companies a service that saves them money, and you are in business. This reasoning led Miss Jane Molloy, a former personnel manager in her early thirties with an MBA from Cranfield, to set up her one-woman personnel management consultancy at Teddington, Middlesex.

That was nearly two years ago and her idea has proved itself, particularly the result of timing. Today many small employers cannot afford to run a personnel department, and are striving to find their own way through the minefield of ever-increasing employment legislation, and having to draw up recruiting advertisements, interview applicants, handle redundancies, cope with staff problems.

By helping companies like these to save time, resolve difficulties and increase their effectiveness, Miss Molloy's own business grew within six months to the point where she received enough work from referrals to keep her busy.

The timing of her own career was equally appropriate. After nearly 10 years' employed experience in personnel work, she put herself through the post-graduate MBA course in order to increase her business, financial

knowledge and marketing skills. It was only as the course ended that she thought about striking out on her own, and started Independent Personnel Management, a staff advisory service within a business framework.

"At first it was an uphill climb. I knew how to run a company, but not how to start one, so I had to work out how to scale everything down to the size of a small consultancy," she recalls.

But now her training and experience have come together to give her two complementary sets of skills, as business woman and personnel manager.

"My job is to help management run their business more efficiently. Personnel staff are often traditionally pro-employees. But I have a business school background and I see my role as supporting line management."

For example, small companies cannot afford to "carry" inefficient staff, as larger concerns may, and where necessary Miss Molloy advises them about shedding under-achievers, while also securing fair terms and the right length of notice for departing staff, and

helping them towards re-employment.

Although she gives one-off advice when this is asked, her main function is to provide a continuing, external advisory service - cost-effective and independent of involvement in company politics - to employers who are looking for wide-ranging professional skills.

She shows firms how to save hefty sums on training commitments, yet make them more effective; represents companies at tribunals, thereby cutting out legal fees; and removes the need for clients to draw on agencies, by providing an advertisement design service.

She has also interviewed job applicants; prevented one very new employer, who was signing up three staff members for the first time, from using wrongly worded contracts that could have led to unnecessarily high compensation and, following a merger of two companies, devised and implemented a grading structure for all the computing and administrative jobs.

In her experience, new small firms often overlook the importance of seeing their business from the potential customer's viewpoint.

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JENNIE SMITH

APPOINTMENTS

General manager at Halifax

Halifax Building Society: Mr David Gilchrist, previously assistant general manager, has become a general manager. He remains responsible for economic and corporate planning. Mr Peter Wood, previously chief inspector, has joined the executive as a secretary and will undertake responsibilities concerning the mortgage and insurance area.

British Home Stores: From January 1, Mr D. P. Cassidy and Mr J. F. Power, who are both directors, to be assistant managing directors, jointly with Mr N. I. Griffin. Mr Cassidy will have responsibility for sales and for the food and restaurant business and Mr Power responsibility for merchandising and finance. Mr C. B. Williams, a divisional director, will be appointed director, store operations.

Morgan Grealish Property Services: Mr Robert Hammington has been made a director to be responsible for property investment acquisition in the UK and US.

London and Scottish Marine Oil: Sir David Nicolson is now a non-executive director.

Phillips Petroleum: Mr W. W. Allen, operations manager, Ivory Coast Region, will be promoted to chairman and managing director. Phillips Petroleum UK on January 1. W. Vinton Limited: Mr G. E. Jones becomes managing director of the company, a subsidiary of Vinton Group, from January 3, 1984.

C & K Consulting Group: Mrs Rosemary Brown has been appointed director of business development.

TSB England and Wales: Mr Ken Millchamp, a senior partner with Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co, accountants, has been made deputy chairman.

BUPA: Mr R. M. Graham, deputy chief executive, will be acting chief executive from January 1 and will succeed Mr D. V. Damerell as chief executive on the latter's retirement next year.

Aircains Group: Mr Michael Narracott is now chief executive. Mr David Proudlove has retired as managing director and has been made a deputy chairman.

Graham Searjeant examines the implications of this week's Neddry meeting

Breaking the unemployment impasse

In an unwanted outbreak of chumminess, Government, TUC and CBI all agreed with Mr John Cassells, director-general of the National Economic Development Office, that this week's long-heralded Neddry meeting on the future for jobs was one of the most constructive on record.

As you would expect in such an atmosphere of accord, none of the parties made any suggestions that are likely to make a rapid dent in Britain's three million recorded unemployment total.

The Government's paper, while making a sober assessment of where new jobs might come from and what might be done to facilitate the process, rested its case on the ability of its broad economic strategy to generate jobs in the long-term by improving the productivity, efficiency, competitiveness and thus growth of the British economy in a sound and stable financial environment.

"Jobs may be lost in the industries experiencing the greatest productivity advance", it concedes. But they will be "gained elsewhere in the economy as the higher incomes that come from higher productivity are spent", mainly in the service sector.

The TUC, in its paper, while doubting some of the Government's flirtations with small business and self-employment, came to similar conclusions, though noting, with its different strategy, that "a return to sustainable high growth is an essential precondition for the success of industrial and other supply-side policies and thus for a return to higher levels of employment".

A precondition it may be, but not necessarily a sufficient condition. There are many explanations for Britain's sudden, internationally long and recalcitrant job queues. According to taste you can cite the inevitable adjustment of the exchange rate to North Sea oil and its necessary effect on manufacturing; the monetarist combination of high interest and exchange rates that knocked out more capacity than the trade cycle justified; structural changes to adjust to new technologies abroad and now at home or the long-delayed shake-out of labour

Unemployment has prevented essential tax cuts

ment has now become an economic problem in its own right, which, whatever the strategic view, undermines the recovery of the economy as a whole.

At one level, unemployment has created problems of income distribution. Britain still has a slightly higher proportion of its population working than most

other EEC countries (which on average enjoy a higher standard of living) and much more than Japan, which also enjoys more income per head.

In principle, it would be a boon to achieve greater prosperity without so many of us having to work. But the pattern of job losses has left whole cities and regions with inadequate spending power and, more particularly, millions of individual families as a new poor class.

The need to sustain those left out of our lopsided dash for prosperity has created a more pressing problem of state finances. The excess unemployment alone drains an annual £10 billion or so from the fisc, equivalent to 10p on income tax.

This has prevented tax cuts, an essential part of the Government's supply-side strategy; it has required emergency cuts in public investment (part of the TUC's); and it has focused longer term public spending pressure on health and education, precisely those parts of the public sector which, if the American pattern is to be followed, should be providing growth areas for activity and jobs.

EMPLOYEES IN EMPLOYMENT, GB, 1973, 1979 AND 1983

	Employees (000s)		Change in employment 1973-83		%p
	June 1973	June 1979	June 1983	Number (000s)	
All industries and services	22,180	22,590	20,460	-1,720	-0.8
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	420	380	340	-80	-2.1
Mining and quarrying	380	350	310	-50	-1.5
Manufacturing	7,850	7,250	5,510	-2,280	-3.5
Construction	1,240	1,250	570	-370	-3.2
Gas, electricity and water	340	340	320	-20	-0.4
Service industries	12,050	13,240	13,150	+1,090	+0.9

Source: Employment Gazette
Note: The 1983 figures include an allowance for the probable understatement of the level of employment, particularly in the service industries, in the basic series.

GROWTH OF SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, GB, 1973-81

	Employment in June 1981 (thousands and self-employed) (millions)		Change 1973-81 (millions)	
	All services	of which		
Transport and communications	14.4	1.5	+1.2	
Finance, banking, finance and business services	3.2	—	—	
Professional and scientific services	1.4	—	+0.3	
Miscellaneous services	3.3	—	+0.5	
Public administration	1.5	—	+0.4	

Source: Employment Gazette

From this national point of view there are clearly three ways of tackling the unemployment problem within the given economic reality.

Government can help create jobs by distributing public spending to labour intensive areas such as construction or services. It can, to the same end, make labour more attractive to employers by cutting social security and other taxes or by improving vocational training. And it can encourage private investment through the interest rates or tax incentives. But government can also try to

Short-term crash programme is needed

induce the unemployed to become self-employed and it can help them to leave the labour force altogether, via tax incentives or the traditional standby of emigrating.

There are already a number of encouraging signs. Treasury ministers are now firmly on the defensive over public investment and seem in the process of a change of attitude.

The privatization programme, allied to competition measures, is gradually freeing state monopolies from the public borrowing trap. The Youth Training Scheme and wider vocational education initiatives to stanch the flow of unemployables are impressive.

The National Assistance Surcharge is on its way out. Although little thought has yet been given to the more significant burden of mainstream employers' contributions.

Small business promotion is having its effect as the birth rate of new companies starts to outpace the catastrophic death rate.

Self-employment, once down to 1.8 million, has crept up above 2 million though it is still a weak feature of the economy, at about 8 per cent of the population compared with 12.5 per cent for the EEC as a whole or 15 per cent including family workers.

Many married women workers, more willing to work than their continental counterparts, have been forced to switch to part-time jobs. The proportion of British families with both spouses in the labour market remains high, but we may be moving to more flexible family combinations or employment part-time work and self-employment.

On a long perspective, all this may have some effect. But it does not offer any real prospect of government being able to break out of the fiscal trap brought by unemployment. This is not simply a matter of welfare costs and tax losses. Palliative youth training schemes, regional aid, investment incentives all cost billions a year and seem destined to swell the public spending total indefinitely.

Quite apart from ruling out more desirable public spending or tax cuts, this prevents government from sorting out taxes on the low-paid. The poverty trap is now recognized as a big deterrent to employment and self-employment. As the Government's Neddry paper coyly puts it, the economic strategy has provided "conditions for lower taxes and interest rates". But the grind of unemployment costs is stopping the Chancellor from realizing the benefits.

Industrial notebook

Why not the Nobel prize for business?

As a sideshow to tomorrow's Nobel award ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo, the Nobel Foundation has declared today The Day of the Nobel Companies.

There is to be a meeting in Oslo this afternoon of the representatives of a dozen or more 'concerns' which, like Dynamit Nobel, Wien Grubn of Austria, were founded by explosives magnate, or like Sweden's own AB Bofors, once belonged to him. In Britain, there is our own ICI, whose chairman, Mr John Harvey-Jones will be present, no doubt wearing one of his direct ties.

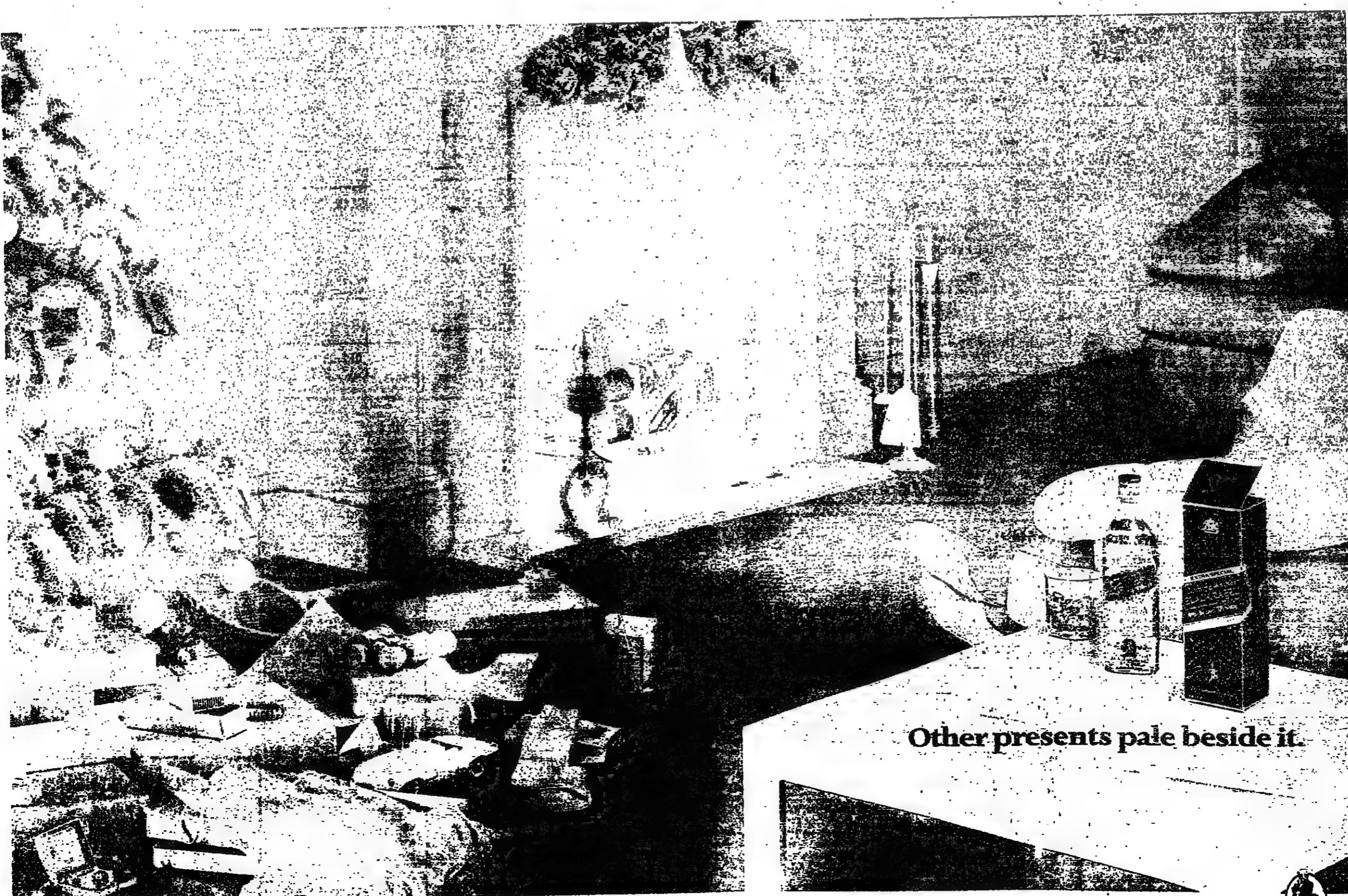
ICI was founded, after the Swede's 'death', in a merger instigated by Nobel's British company which, like ICI today, was the world's biggest maker of industrial explosives. Directing proceedings is the deputy chairman of the Nobel Foundation, Dr Tore Brevik, vice-chairman of Svenska Handelsbanken.

It is a meeting at which the "Nobel Heritage" will be discussed gravely but, since it is a private gathering only the participants will emerge say the wiser. The important thing about this concave, however, is that it is taking place at all. Alfred Nobel is known as a philanthropist and is remembered, albeit imperfectly, as the inventor of dynamite. In view of the bloody uses to which this and his other explosive inventions subsequently were put, the Nobel Foundation skirts gingerly around its benefactor's industrial achievements.

This is the 150th anniversary of his birth, in what is now central Stockholm. What better year to make a modest proposal that there be a huge Nobel prize, for business or commercial innovation? This would commemorate Nobel's achievements in industrial organization and as a model employer. It might also encourage stronger links between public and private enterprise.

Computers, microchips, pharmaceuticals, name your own idea - all have potential for good and ill, as did Nobel's explosives. He tamed nitroglycerine, the biggest advance in blasting since gunpowder.

Ross Davies



Other presents pale beside it.

NOTHING ELSE MEASURES UP TO JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK LABEL



كذلك من الأصل

Counties may have to bowl at least 117 overs a day in championship matches

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Among several significant recommendations to be put to the Test and County Cricket Board at their statutory winter meeting to be held at Lord's next Tuesday, is one which, if accepted, will require a minimum of 117 overs to be bowled in a full day's championship cricket.

Another attempt is to be made at reaching an agreement whereby no county would be allowed to include more than one "overseas" player after the end of the 1983 season; and, sadly, the limitation of bouncers in county cricket to one an over is likely to be abandoned.

The TCCB have fought more or less a lone battle against excessive use of the bouncer, the most malign single development in modern cricket, especially when bowled round the wicket. When prior to meeting West Indies, Australia and Pakistan, England have suggested that bouncers should be restricted to one per over, they have invariably been knocked back. Now they themselves have given up the ghost. It will be left again to the umpires to decide what constitutes "an attempt to intimidate the striker", and in this they have a poor record.

Imran cleared to play in fourth Test

Sydney (Reuter) - The injured Pakistan captain Imran Khan has been cleared by an orthopaedic surgeon to play in the fourth Test against Australia starting in Melbourne on December 26.

Imran has been unable to play because of a strain fracture of his left knee since the tourney side arrived in Australia in October, but a leading Sydney specialist said yesterday that the latest X-ray examination of the Pakistani captain's leg showed he had made good progress. He would be able to resume playing after the third Test which was due to start today in Adelaide.

After leaving the surgery, Imran said: "It is a great weight of my mind. I wasn't hoping for miracles but just for the best. The bowing immediately, though I want to do both in the Melbourne Test, and then the Sydney Test, and the one-day internationals later."

Imran said he was thinking of getting some practice in Hobart in Pakistan's match against Tasmania from December 16 to 19.

"But I must be careful and give the shin the maximum time in between to be sure of playing on December 26," he said.



Imran: on the mend

Asked if he thought that his ability to play again would give new heart to his countrymen, Imran replied: "I sincerely hope they feel that way."

While Imran has been kept out of action, his countrymen have lost the first Test against Australia and been saved by rain in the second. Zabir Abbas has led the team in his absence.

The Test empire Dickie Bird has been invited to make up a four-man panel to officiate at the new Asia

as it were, to complete the 117 overs required of them. Due allowances would be made of course, for unscheduled stops.

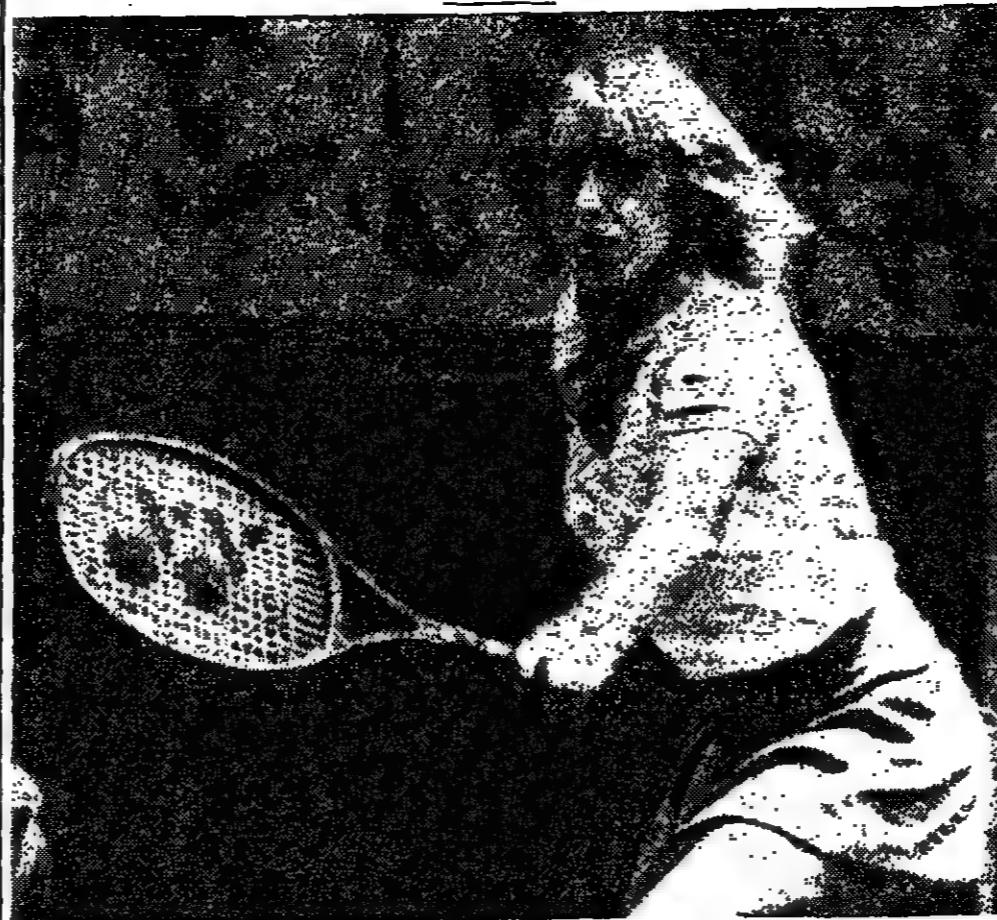
The figure of 117 is calculated on 18 overs to the hour, which is still a concession to the slow coaches. In 1930 in the Lord's Test between England and Australia, the average for the match was 22 to the hour; in the Lord's Test of 1946, between England and India, it was 23. By 1980, when West Indies were bowling at the Oval, it had sunk to just over 12. In next year's Test matches in England, West Indies are to be asked to agree to 96 overs in the

day.

The latest proposal for trimming "overseas" players to one per county side and for this to be implemented sooner rather than later, sets the end of the 1985 season as a deadline. After that no county could play more than one of them. Least well suited by this would be Somerset, who have two such players of very considerable ones, too, in Garner and Richards - under contracts until the end of 1986. For one reason and another Tuesday's meeting seems unlikely to be a short

one.

The most extreme example of this was at Chelmsford in August when Essex rattled through 57 overs in 80 mins. In future, players may have to stay on the field, working overtime



Martina Navratilova was in aggressive mood, on and off the court, in Australia yesterday.

The \$6m woman marches on

Melbourne (Agencies) - Martina Navratilova, the No 1 seed, continued her relentless march towards her third successive Australian Open final when she swept aside her doubles partner Pamela Shriver, 6-4, 6-3, in yesterday's semi-final. Miss Navratilova will play the No 9 seed, Kathy Jordan, in Saturday's final.

Yesterday, Miss Jordan beat Zina Garrison, the No 10 seed, in their semi-final, 7-6, 6-1. It will be her fourth "grand slam" final.

Miss Navratilova has been beaten only once this year and that was by Miss Shriver tried to pressure her with a potent serve and volley attack. Miss Navratilova was always able to move into a higher gear. Two service breaks were enough for Miss Navratilova to achieve victory.

Miss Jordan will need all the tenacity she showed in her semi-final to beat Miss Navratilova. She was 5-2 down in the first set against Miss Garrison, but won 11 of the next 13 games to reach her second consecutive tournament final. She lost to Jo Durie of Britain, in the South Africa/Wales Open two weeks

ago.

Miss Navratilova was beaten here

in the final last year, but she has been Australian champion four times. In 1979, Miss Jordan's elder sister Barbara, won this title, but Kathy has never beaten Miss Navratilova in their nine meetings.

Miss Navratilova, aged 27, has now amassed career winnings of more than \$6m - more than any other player, male or female. But

she still feels that prize money should be higher. Yesterday, she said: "The prize money at Wimbledon and the US Open is pathetic."

Miss Navratilova said the players should band together to try to get more money and that more money should come back into the game. "I think we get \$75,000 from the US Tennis Association for the improvement of women's tennis but we get nothing from Wimbledon or anybody else."

Miss Navratilova is chasing the third leg of the Grand Slam after winning Wimbledon and the US Open. If she wins the Australian title here and the 1984 French Open, she will earn a special bonus of \$1m. Only two other women have won

four "grand slam" events in succession.

Ana Hobbs, of Britain, and Wendy Turnbull, of Australia, are through to the women's doubles semi-finals after beating Jo Durie and Ann Kiyomura in three sets.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Second round: M. Ecclestone (GB) 6-3, 6-3; A. Hobbs (GB) and W. Turnbull (Aus) 6-1, 6-2.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Quarter-final: M. Ecclestone and F. Shriver (US) 6-3, 6-2; J. Garrison and R. Cartwright (Aus) 6-3, 6-2.

Men's singles: Semi-final: M. Ecclestone and Paul McNamee (Aus) 6-1, 6-3; S. Stevens and M. Mitchell (US) 7-6, 6-4; S. Stevens and M. Mitchell (US) 6-3, 6-3; N. Gatt (Aus) 6-7, 6-4, 6-2; N. Gatt (Aus) and M. Wunder (Aus) 6-3, 6-2.

Men's doubles: Semi-final: B. Diaz and L. Diaz (Cuba) 6-3, 6-2.

WIMBLEDON holds prices

£7. Partly to counter-balance this on the second Thursday, court one prices are £3 less - £7 instead of £11.

Tennis ticket goes up by £1 in the first week only - in the second week it costs £3 - and on the last four days, the reserved standing accommodation on the centre court will cost £25 instead of £24.

Tuesday, July 4: Women's singles semi-final, £10. Women's singles final, £12. Friday, July 7: Women's doubles final, £12. Saturday, July 8: men's singles final, £12. Sunday, July 9: men's doubles final, £12.

Warren regroups his forces after third title setback

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Frank Warren, the promoter, is nothing if not an optimist after the whacks he has taken on the chin this year. Three of his star boxers, Roy Gumbi, Tony Willis and now Mike Wallace, have all hit the floor just when their stock was at its highest.

The hardest blow of all was the defeat of the world flyweight title. Warren was packing plans for challenging Santos Laciari of Argentina, in the new year, after Wallace's challenge for Antoine Montero's European title at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel.

Montero, who many thought had come here to collect his biggest pay packet, and leave his title behind, surprised the experts again by stopping Wallace in eight rounds.

Warren's only consolation was that this reverse was not like the other two, at the hands of boxers with their feet firmly in the camp of his arch-rivals, Mike Barrow and Mickey Duff. Yesterday, at his Bloomsbury offices, Warren came up smiling, as you can put a smile on a face even if it is smiling. Who wouldn't after just seeing Marlene Bauer looking not one but two million dollars? One of these days, Warren said, he would come up trumps too.

Warren said that he was regrouping his forces and that 1984 would be his year. The man boxing for him, wrote in Don King's book, Wales's British heavyweight champion, in 25 hours, puts the European crown on the block. The western French port tonight against a local veteran, Germaine le Maire.

Graham, aged 24, from Sheffield, is so confident of keeping his title that he was happy to come to La Maire's home town to defend it.

Le Maire, aged 36, a wily boxer who dominated the French light-middleweight scene in the mid-seventies, retired in 1975 but staged a comeback in February.

In a way more confounding than Wallace's defeat, Tahima, in two rounds when he was the side on May 23 in Sheffield and in his only fight since knocked out Puerto Rican Carlos Betancourt, inside a round.

BADMINTON

Mrs Gilks aims for record

The favourites for this year's English national championships, sponsored by Yonex, at Coventry, and starting today, provide an unexpected and curious contrast. Richard Eaton writes, Gillian Gilks will be attempting to retain the women's singles title and take it for a record ninth time; Steve Butler will be trying to win the men's for the first time.

Mrs Gilks is 33 and in the later stages of a famous, occasionally notorious, career. Butler is 20 and trying to make an important breakthrough in front of his home crowd. Both are lucky to be top种子.

It means that Mrs Gilks, who has played only a handful of singles all season, is able to have one last realistic chance. Last year she took a similar risk in the national singles and pulled a muscle. This time she has her own physio therapist standing by.

Butler's chances are further enhanced by the ankle injury to Kevin Jolly, the holder.

This is because yesterday Eng-

1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield
Authorised Units Trusts						1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield
Alpha Unit Trusts						1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield
Alpha Unit Trust Management Ltd						1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield
Alpha Unit Trust Management Ltd						1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield
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Alpha Unit Trust Management Ltd						1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield
Alpha Unit Trust Management Ltd						1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Yield	1983/84					

Three English teams threaten to extend dominance over Channel

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The three English clubs who are creating an unofficial "super league" of their own threaten to extend their rule across the Channel. Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur hold between them an irresistible claim to this season's domestic crown and each of them stands third in line to a European throne.

Liverpool will take with them their awesome simplicity, United their thrilling unpredictability, and Tottenham's their maturing confidence into today's three quarter-final draws. With Nottingham Forest winning unexpectedly 2-1 at Celtic and joining Tottenham in the last eight in the UEFA Cup, England will be the only nation with four representatives.

Nor is that the only reason to blow the patriotic trumpet. On Wednesday night England increased their lead over West Germany at the top of Europe's overall table and Tottenham climbed to the head of the individual list. Their defeat of Bayern Munich raised their unofficial average points total - on the basis of two for a win - to 1,438 from 73 ties in European competitions.

A year ago Keith Burkinshaw stood at Munich airport, having seen his side lose their way in the fog and go down 4-1. Then he bemoaned England's general lack of technique. Now he has changed his tune. Having watched his team gain ample

revenge in their 2-0 win, he suggested that foreign opponents can be too sophisticated.

Burkinshaw, feeling that Bayern were sucked deep into their own strategic caution, wondered "what might have happened if they had come at us". Yet Tottenham scarcely gave them an opportunity. They overpowered the modern approach, sweeper and all, with old fashioned methods and threw in two uninhibited 18-year-old wingers to play with an abandon that was as fresh as youth itself.

As Watford learnt from their 4-0 defeat

Europe's leaders

	P	W	D	L	pts	Av
Tottenham	73	47	11	15	165	1,438
Borussia M'G	53	57	10	17	132	1,430
Liverpool	125	74	24	28	172	1,365
Bayern Munich	52	43	16	13	127	1,358
Watford	50	23	9	12	75	1,340
Manchester U	74	41	17	18	98	1,330
Nottingham For	123	57	22	28	163	1,320
Porto	177	102	33	43	223	1,316

Leading countries

	P	W	D	L	pts	Av
England	865	468	185	214	1113	1,285
W. Germany	874	456	162	258	1074	1,228

• Tables devised by World Soccer.

Maxwell gets an apology and a second replay at Oxford

The Oxford United chairman, Robert Maxwell, won the right to stage the Milk Cup fourth round second replay against Manchester United, at Oxford after winning the toss of a coin yesterday. The clubs, who drew 1-1 at Old Trafford on Wednesday had to call in the Football League when they could not agree on a venue for the third match, which is to take place on Monday, December 19.

But Mr Maxwell was angry that the toss, conducted by a League spokesman on the telephone, had to take place yesterday. He had wanted to settle the issue immediately after Wednesday's game, but claimed that the Manchester United manager, Ron Atkinson, and his chairman, Martin Edwards, had refused.

Mr Maxwell, said yesterday, "They were insisting the match should be at Old Trafford or at a neutral ground. It caused unnecessary difficulties and confusion. I protested to the League, and they and Mr Edwards have apologized to me for the misunderstanding."

The Star that burns brightly could lead Arbroath astray

On September 3, 1885, Arbroath set what is still, and is likely to be a British club scoring record in a first class match when they beat the long since dead and buried Bon Accord 36-0 in a Scottish Cup first round tie. On Saturday Arbroath will meet opponents of similar status, although not, they fear, comparable defensive weakness. To the contrary, and to paraphrase their own nickname, there is a "red Lutie" on the horizon.

Outside south west Scotland the name Dalbeattie Star is scarcely better known than that of Bon Accord, perhaps even less so in view of the Aberdeen club's unfortunate claim to fame. The village is not exactly on the beaten track, tucked away 14 miles west of Dumfries near the Solway coast. Here 9,000 fold go quietly about their affairs in a farming-based economy.

It is a football area, but most who like the game travel to Dumfries to watch the presently successful Queen of the South. Only .75 or so stay behind to support Dalbeattie Star in the south of Scotland league against such equally little known opponents as Treave Rovers and Creetown, although 1500 are expected tomorrow.

The nearest the faithful get to seeing League footballers is when Stranraer Reserves are the visitors of Ibrox stadium. Consider that Stranraer's first team was seven years matches out of 32 and finished at the foot of the second division eight Mr Geddes said gravely.

by Sparta in Prague, such innocent enthusiasm must be added to the refined experience of a Parryman, the raw determination of a Roberts, the eager opportunism of an Archibald, and, most of all, the rare gifts of a Hoddle. Yet that recipe is imperfect without the ingredient of consistency.

Tottenham are threatening to find it even without the assistance of Ardiles, Galvin and Mabbett. By the time those three internationals return and settle into their accustomed roles, White Hart Lane may be preparing to stage their quarter-final tie in March.

The Austrians, also with two survivors in the UEFA Cup field, are clearly likely opponents. Since the other qualifiers are Anderlecht, the holders, Spartak Moscow, impressive conquerors of Aston Villa in the previous round, Sparta Prague and Hajduk Split, they are probably the most welcome as well.

Tottenham and Forest will, above all, want to avoid each other. Only one point separates them in the first division and Brian Clough has a formidable reputation for extracting more from his side than even they knew existed. Celtic can confirm that.

Bargaining ahead for Robson

Bobby Robson has two weeks to prepare for the hard bargaining that will take place when England and their World Cup opponents hammer out arrangements for their qualifying matches.

Representatives from Northern Ireland, Romania, Poland and Finland meet Robson and Ted Croker, secretary of the Football Association, in London on December 22 to sort out dates for the three fixtures.

"It's too early to say how I would like to play it," said Robson. "But I will look at all the alternatives very carefully before making up my mind."

Concessions will have to be made by the other countries, but England will want to avoid starting their campaign with a tricky away match in Turkey or Romania.

England's first qualifying match is likely to be in September, a time when they rarely produce good performances. Two matches could be dispensed with as part of a summer tour in 1983.

The FA will ask the Football League for free weeks before every qualifying match, but Croker said: "If there was a bad winter and a back-log of fixtures, it would be difficult to postpone any more Saturday programmes."

In the meantime, next summer's trip to Brazil looks certain to go ahead. The Brazilians are ready to stage their 70th anniversary tournament at the same time as the European Championship finals, so England hope to travel soon to the friendly nations.

• Derby city council, at a special meeting yesterday, decided to take no action on a request for help from Derby County.

Four other local authorities had already agreed they could not help.

• Hull City are to make a two-week tour of the United States next May. They will play Tampa Bay Rowdies and Fort Lauderdale Strikers and hope to arrange a game against the American national side in Miami.

Morley: Move completed



Jim Black, a petrol tanker driver and chairman, sits on hard benches with the rest of the directors, that is when he is not shouting advice from the touchline.

"We are very much an amateur club," Mr Geddes said. "We did try being a professional one for a season, but I think the lads played worse when they were paid."

The club can trace its origin back to the 1890s when it began life as the equivalent of a Territorial Army team. The same Dalbeattie Star was adopted after World War I and the best years were during the 1930s. In that period Scottish Cup ties were played against Celtic, St Mirren, Falkirk, Partick Thistle and Queen's Park. The farthest they got was in 1930 when they lost to Partick Thistle.

After World War II the Star played three seasons and then closed because of lack of local interest. It was resurrected and admitted to the SFA in 1976.

The old colours, red and black hoops are to be worn again after 28 years. "Only they are actually red and black stripes because we couldn't get jerseys with hoops," Mr Geddes said. Horizontal or vertical, they will be seen tomorrow in a Scottish Cup tie in Dalbeattie for the first time since that famous day when seven men faced Queen's Park in 1937.

Iain Mackenzie

SQUASH RACKETS

Absence of top players dilutes championships

By Rex Bellamy

Three leading players will be missing when Britain's national championships begin today at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield. Hidetoshi Jihon, who would have been top seed in the men's event, did not become a British citizen until July and for this and other reasons decided it would be inadmissible to enter. Alison Cummings, the holder of the women's title, and Nicola Spurgeon, who had been seeded eighth, are out of action with foot injuries.

These deficiencies are particularly unfortunate because this is a special year for the championships. For the first time the men's and women's events are being combined in one tournament with the backing of a single sponsor, Just Juice, who have supported the women's championship for five years.

This will also be the first time the women's title has been decided at Abbeydale Park while Thorntons the confectioners, have been uncommonly enthusiastic and enlightened in sponsoring men's tournaments at three different levels for nine years. That is a long time to maintain sponsorship and the withdrawal of Thorntons was therefore no surprise. But theirs will be a hard act to follow.

The men's event replaced the defunct British amateur championship in 1979 and has always been played in the congenial environment of Abbeydale. The winners have been Gavain Briars (twice), Jonah Barrington and Phillip Kenyon. In the 1981 final Kenyon beat Briars in straight games but last

FOR THE RECORD

ICE HOCKEY

TONYC: Third floor, 1 V. Mokhov (USSR), St Louis Blues, St Louis, Missouri, 63103, USA; New York Rangers, 2 Washington Capitals, 3 New York Islanders, 4 Chicago Black Hawks, 5 Buffalo Sabres; 2 Minnesota North Stars, 7 Detroit Red Wings; 2 New Jersey Devils; 8 New York Islanders, 9 New York Rangers, 10 New York Islanders, 11 Vancouver Canucks; 4 New York Islanders, 12 Los Angeles Kings, 13 Los Angeles Kings.

GYMNASTICS

TONYC: Men's floor, 1 V. Mokhov (USSR), 2 P. Gulyayev (USSR), 3 D. Seregin (USSR), 4 P. Vlasov (USSR), 5 K. Sotnikov (USSR), 6 T. Vlasov (USSR), 7 P. Vlasov (USSR), 8 P. Vlasov (USSR), 9 P. Vlasov (USSR), 10. V. Mokhov (USSR), 11. D. Seregin (USSR), 12. D. Seregin (USSR), 13. D. Seregin (USSR), 14. L. Yeo (GBR), 15. D. Seregin (USSR), 16. S. Abramov (USSR), 17. D. Seregin (USSR), 18. D. Seregin (USSR), 19. D. Seregin (USSR), 20. D. Seregin (USSR), 21. M. Gulyayev (USSR), 22. S. Abramov (USSR), 23. D. Seregin (USSR), 24. D. Seregin (USSR), 25. D. Seregin (USSR), 26. D. Seregin (USSR), 27. D. Seregin (USSR), 28. D. Seregin (USSR), 29. D. Seregin (USSR), 30. D. Seregin (USSR), 31. D. Seregin (USSR), 32. D. Seregin (USSR), 33. D. Seregin (USSR), 34. D. Seregin (USSR), 35. D. Seregin (USSR), 36. D. Seregin (USSR), 37. D. Seregin (USSR), 38. D. Seregin (USSR), 39. D. Seregin (USSR), 40. D. Seregin (USSR), 41. D. Seregin (USSR), 42. D. Seregin (USSR), 43. D. Seregin (USSR), 44. D. Seregin (USSR), 45. D. Seregin (USSR), 46. D. Seregin (USSR), 47. D. Seregin (USSR), 48. D. Seregin (USSR), 49. D. Seregin (USSR), 50. D. Seregin (USSR), 51. D. Seregin (USSR), 52. D. Seregin (USSR), 53. D. Seregin (USSR), 54. D. Seregin (USSR), 55. D. Seregin (USSR), 56. D. Seregin (USSR), 57. D. Seregin (USSR), 58. D. Seregin (USSR), 59. D. Seregin (USSR), 60. D. Seregin (USSR), 61. D. Seregin (USSR), 62. D. Seregin (USSR), 63. D. Seregin (USSR), 64. D. Seregin (USSR), 65. D. Seregin (USSR), 66. D. Seregin (USSR), 67. D. Seregin (USSR), 68. D. Seregin (USSR), 69. D. Seregin (USSR), 70. D. Seregin (USSR), 71. D. Seregin (USSR), 72. D. Seregin (USSR), 73. D. Seregin (USSR), 74. D. Seregin (USSR), 75. D. Seregin (USSR), 76. D. Seregin (USSR), 77. D. Seregin (USSR), 78. D. Seregin (USSR), 79. D. Seregin (USSR), 80. D. Seregin (USSR), 81. D. Seregin (USSR), 82. D. Seregin (USSR), 83. D. Seregin (USSR), 84. D. Seregin (USSR), 85. D. Seregin (USSR), 86. D. Seregin (USSR), 87. D. Seregin (USSR), 88. D. Seregin (USSR), 89. D. Seregin (USSR), 90. D. Seregin (USSR), 91. D. Seregin (USSR), 92. D. Seregin (USSR), 93. D. Seregin (USSR), 94. D. Seregin (USSR), 95. D. Seregin (USSR), 96. D. Seregin (USSR), 97. D. Seregin (USSR), 98. D. Seregin (USSR), 99. D. Seregin (USSR), 100. D. Seregin (USSR), 101. D. Seregin (USSR), 102. D. Seregin (USSR), 103. D. Seregin (USSR), 104. D. Seregin (USSR), 105. D. Seregin (USSR), 106. D. Seregin (USSR), 107. D. Seregin (USSR), 108. D. Seregin (USSR), 109. D. Seregin (USSR), 110. D. Seregin (USSR), 111. D. Seregin (USSR), 112. D. Seregin (USSR), 113. D. Seregin (USSR), 114. D. Seregin (USSR), 115. D. Seregin (USSR), 116. D. Seregin (USSR), 117. D. Seregin (USSR), 118. D. Seregin (USSR), 119. D. Seregin (USSR), 120. D. Seregin (USSR), 121. D. Seregin (USSR), 122. D. Seregin (USSR), 123. D. Seregin (USSR), 124. D. Seregin (USSR), 125. D. Seregin (USSR), 126. D. Seregin (USSR), 127. D. Seregin (USSR), 128. D. Seregin (USSR), 129. D. Seregin (USSR), 130. D. Seregin (USSR), 131. D. Seregin (USSR), 132. D. Seregin (USSR), 133. D. Seregin (USSR), 134. D. Seregin (USSR), 135. D. Seregin (USSR), 136. D. Seregin (USSR), 137. D. Seregin (USSR), 138. D. Seregin (USSR), 139. D. Seregin (USSR), 140. D. Seregin (USSR), 141. D. Seregin (USSR), 142. D. Seregin (USSR), 143. D. Seregin (USSR), 144. D. Seregin (USSR), 145. D. Seregin (USSR), 146. D. Seregin (USSR), 147. D. Seregin (USSR), 148. D. Seregin (USSR), 149. D. Seregin (USSR), 150. D. Seregin (USSR), 151. D. Seregin (USSR), 152. D. Seregin (USSR), 153. D. Seregin (USSR), 154. D. Seregin (USSR), 155. D. Seregin (USSR), 156. D. Seregin (USSR), 157. D. Seregin (USSR), 158. D. Seregin (USSR), 159. D. Seregin (USSR), 160. D. Seregin (USSR), 161. D. Seregin (USSR), 162. D. Seregin (USSR), 163. D. Seregin (USSR), 164. D

Miss Walliser overcomes leg injury to triumph but faces uphill struggle

From John Hennessy, Val d'Isere

Irene Epple was right, then. She had said after her victory in the Première Neige downhill here on Wednesday that "tomorrow was another day". There was no cause to be struck. The German champion, however, was succeeded by a Swiss of like character in Maria Walliser, the winner in March sunshine, of yesterday's race, transferred from a virtually snow-less Sestriere.

Then was so little between the two that it was necessary to invoke the hundreds of a second to establish the difference. The German was 22.100ths behind Miss Walliser at the intermediate point and 8.100ths ahead over the second part of the course. The net result was that Miss Epple was 0.14 secs behind Miss Walliser's winning time of 1min 20.995sec with Lea Soellner of Austria, third in 1:21.27 and Gerry Sorensen of Canada, only 3/100ths of a second further back.

With the retirement of Doris de Agostini, the overall winner for Switzerland in the downhill last season, Miss Walliser seems the obvious successor, for she was runner-up to her com-

petitor. But she refuses, sensibly, to regard herself as an Olympic favourite and thereby add her own pressures to those imposed by other people, she argues, instead, that the Swiss team is still in strong even if Miss de Agostini's absence, that said could well be beaten her own national championship in February, never mind what might be happening in the great wide world outside.

Even so, Miss Walliser has

established her authority, along with that of Miss Epple, against an unpromising background, having recovered from an injury in her knee last year — after two World Cup victories at Megève and, significantly, Sarajevo — she cut open her left knee in training a month ago, re-opened it later and spent the whole of last week in bed, hoping it would mend.

The knee impedes her training, for fear of re-opening the injury, but at least when race day comes she is unaware of any impediment. Watching yesterday's race afterwards on a video, however, she realised she was nursing her left leg at crucial points on the course, a track of 2,200 metres long with a vertical drop of 620 metres at La Daille.

For the moment, Miss Epple seems to have the upper hand with one first place and one second, whereas Miss Walliser, notably less confident on Wednesday, finished eighth. It seems, though, that the Swiss, six years younger at 20, will have a decided edge when she has two fit legs.

The final training for today's



Airborne: Miss Walliser en route to victory

men's downhill threw up an interesting possibility for Steven Lee, of Australia, had the second best training time behind Todd Brooker, a Canadian favourite. Lee was tenth in

the Hahnenkamm, at Kitzbühel. He might just take the Alps by storm as another Australian, Malcolm Milne, once did by winning here in 1969. It is a long shot but a fascinating one.

LEADING TIME SCORERS: 13th Canada (D. Berry); 12th USA; 14th United States (R. Callahan); 10th V. H. (Costa); 14th Italy (M. Milne); 9th France (P. Gagnon); 7th J. Cartiere; 6th Austria (D. Walliser); 5th J. Cartiere; 4th France (A. Pichot); 3rd Italy (B. Cicali); 2nd Spain (P. Ordonez); 12th Sweden (L. Walliser); 11th Switzerland (A. Suter); 10th United States (J. Cartiere); 9th France (P. Gagnon); 8th United States (D. Walliser); 7th United States (J. Cartiere); 6th France (P. Gagnon); 5th United States (D. Walliser); 4th France (P. Gagnon); 3rd United States (J. Cartiere); 2nd France (P. Gagnon); 1st United States (D. Walliser).

LEADING TEAM SCORERS: 13th Canada (D. Berry); 12th USA; 14th United States (R. Callahan); 10th V. H. (Costa); 14th Italy (M. Milne); 9th France (P. Gagnon); 7th J. Cartiere; 6th Austria (D. Walliser); 5th J. Cartiere; 4th France (A. Pichot); 3rd Italy (B. Cicali); 2nd Spain (P. Ordonez); 12th Sweden (L. Walliser); 11th Switzerland (A. Suter); 10th United States (J. Cartiere); 9th France (P. Gagnon); 8th United States (D. Walliser); 7th United States (J. Cartiere); 6th France (P. Gagnon); 5th United States (D. Walliser); 4th France (P. Gagnon); 3rd United States (J. Cartiere); 2nd France (P. Gagnon); 1st United States (D. Walliser).

SELECTION: Misses (11)

SCOTT LANE (CIO) (T. Innes); 21.545; 2m 48 (13 runners)

2.15 FOUDRERS-ARMOUR CHASE (handicap: 26.317; 3m 11 (9)

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Lee

BBC 1

TV-am



CHOICE

8.00 Ceefax AM. News, sport, weather and travel information.

8.30 Breakfast Time. Hosted by Sian Scott and Mike Smith. Regular features include news at 8.30 and half-hourly until 8.30; regional news 8.45, 7.15, 7.45, 8.15; weather 8.31, 8.57, 7.27, 7.57, 8.27; Morning papers 7.18, 8.18. This morning Glynn Christian cooks and Audrey Elyne sings between 8.30 and 9.00.

9.00 My Music. Classical music test, repeated for those who conduct Beethoven in the bath. Steve Ross poses the question (r). 9.25 Closeout.

10.30 May School. Card Leader is the special-named guest, the star of *May School's Choice*, by John Yeoman. 11.35-Plus Ideas. Brian Cant accepts criticism of the BBC's toddler vision. 11.05 Closeout.

12.30 News. weather. 12.57 Financial Report, news headlines.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Resident greenfingers, Peter Seabrook, roots around for gifts to please amateur gardeners. Ronnie Barker brings along some saucy French postcards. 1.45 Little Misses and the Matin Men.

2.00 Racing from Cheltenham. Three-race card covers the 2.15, 2.50 and 3.25.

3.35 Tom and Jerry Double Bill: Ah! Sweet Mouse Story of Life + Bodysniper. 3.55 Play School It's Friday. 4.20 The Adventures of Butchville and Rocky. Carben serial. 4.25 Jackdaw. Read by John Grant. 4.35 Take Hart.

4.45 Croakjack. Starry edition with guest singers David Grant and Tam, both Charlie Magr, sprinter Sonia Lannaman, trick pistol Barry Lappy and ventriloquist Keith Harris with his puppet pals.

5.40 50 Minutes. Current affairs compendium includes News at 5.40; South East at Six (at 5.53); weather 6.15; closing headlines (6.38).

6.40 Friday Sportsworld. Weekly magazine.

6.55 Show Business. Starry-eyed survey of stage, screen and pop, hosted by Alan Smith. With Spaniard Ballet, Diana Cannon and a tribute to 50 years of Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire.

7.20 Film The Wildcats of St Trinian's (1980). Sadie, they are but mere kittens compared with the hockey stick horrors who used to inhabit the school for scoundrels back in the 1950s. Frank Lauder helped write and directed the original film and was behind this affectionate attempt to revive and update the series. The schoolgirls campaign for their own trade union. Sheila Hancock is their hard-pressed Head; Joe Melling, Michael Hordern, Rodney Bewes also appear.

8.50 Points of View. Barry Took largely snubs at those selected from the week's postal opinions.

9.00 News, weekend weather. 9.25 Knots Landing. Ginger's still nuts about singing, though Kenny isn't.

10.15 The Chieftains' Images of Ireland. Irish arts and crafts accompanied by folk music from Paddy Maloney and his men. (London only. See also *Regional Variations*.)

11.45 News, weekend weather.

10.50 Film: Impasse (1968) Burt Reynolds action movie in which he returns to the Pacific to unearth a cache of gold buried on an island during the second World War. Anne Francis also appears, under Richard Benedict's direction.

12.30 Closeout.

6.25 Good Morning Britain. With Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Friday features include *Checkout* (6.50 and 8.02); *Reach for the Moon* (7.45); *Family Time* with Martin Jarvis (8.05); *Jimmy Greaves* at TV critic (8.35); Plus news at 6.30; sport at 6.35, 7.40; morning papers at 6.25.

9.25 Thames News Headlines. 9.30 Sesame Street. 10.25 Wildlife in Winter. Olympic swimmer David Wilkie skis.

10.50 Squash Days. Leger sports in the Rockies. 11.25 Cartoon Time. Popeye. 11.35 Film Fun - The Movie. Pop star films (r).

12.00 We'll Tell You a Story. 12.10 Rainbow.

12.30 Understanding Toddlers. Advice for parents of hyperactive children.

1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 About Britain. Silicon Glen. The micro-electronics boom brings jobs to the Scottish Borders.

2.00 Private Benjamin. Judy's army life is not so private when her mother moves in. 2.30 Falcon Crest. Cole is the father of Melissa's baby. Down in the Valley, they read all about it. In the Globe (r). 3.30 Sons and Daughters: Serial.

4.00 Rainbow. With Jane Asher (r). 4.25 40th Anniversary. 4.25 Star Trek. 4.45 The Lord Cheshire attend Soc's party. 4.50 Frostine. Christmas party games.

5.15 The Young Doctors. Edna is offered help to run Bunty's Place.

5.45 The 8 o'clock Show. Metropolitan magazine with Michael Aspel and Paula Yates.

7.00 Family Fortunes. Public opinion guessing game hosted by Max Bygraves.

8.30 Eiger. Mountain and lone Eric Jones tackles the notorious north face of the Eiger, alone (see *Choice*).

9.00 A Fine Romance. Unable to persuade Miles Williams to become a family man, the broody Judi Dench decides on desperate measures.

9.30 Auf Wiederssehen, Pet. Creators Clement and La French hand over their tenderly-crafted building site comedy to the care of writer Stan Hay, whose script centres on a gentle giant. Bonner. He flies home to look for his son, who has died. She turns up in Germany looking for him, and surprised to find the four-star hotel of his laters a stag-style hut. Wrestler Pet Roach plays Bomber.

10.00 News at Ten, followed by London News Headlines.

10.30 The London Programme. An examination of the effect that the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority will have on London's schools.

11.00 Dart. The World Masters event for men and women held in West London. Welsh housewife Anne Marie Davies defends her woman's world title.

12.00 Film: Woyzeck (1979). Haunting German movie, thanks to a stark script by director Werner Herzog and a bare-boned portrayal of the pitiable Praviss Woyzeck by the cadaverous Klaus Kinski, running from one indignity to the next, mostly from his sadistic superior and the stony mother of his child, Eva Mattes (subtitled).

1.20 Night Thoughts by Rabbi Eleazar Weiss, then Closeout.

ITV/LONDON

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BBC 2

● Fly on the wall film-making assumes a different perspective under Leo Dickinson's intrepid eye. *Eiger* (ITV, 7.30pm). A vast, vertiginous vista of black rock fills the screen, the notorious north face of the mountain, longed for since the last place on Earth. Then the scene telescopes into a sloping spine of ice and a spack appears, at first no bigger than a fly, then gradually growing to the figure of a man, finally holding a dear life. Welshman Eric Jones, a veteran mountaineer with Dickinson, is attempting to become the first Briton to climb the north face of the Eiger, alone. "The Eiger is a silly mountain to go to. You see you rise to get killed", Alpine guide Adolf Rubi

had warned us, and this film confirms with actors and a breathtaking sky-dive stunt, how previous team attempts have often ended in disaster. What that could mean for Jones, the lone star of this stunning film, is dramatically expressed by a memorable, gut-wrenching, camera shot that pans 5,000 feet down the sheer mountainside. It is last for ever.

● *Romance, Romance* (BBC 2, 7.20pm) is, in its own terms, a tale of daring. The last and best of the six pictures to follow, Dhdny again cranes round the curtain of Britain's close-knit Asian community. The heroine of tonight's tale, an English-educated teenager (played with

admirable zest by Rita Wolf) evades her prosperous father's attempts to introduce her to a highly eligible Asian. Entrepreneur, preferring instead to pursue a stage career. Director Jon Amiel is doubly blessed with Sased Jaffay as the wily but understanding father, trying to instil a respect for eastern traditions, while he too chases western values and social status. The more uncertainty, and cultural confusion he shares with his anglicised daughter are deftly handled by Dhdny with warmth and humour.

● John Pritchard conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in *MONOREM* ADRIAN BOULT (Radio 3, 7.30pm), a concert relay from the Royal Festival Hall to mark the passing of the great conductor.

10.30 Arnold Bax: Cantancies; Dennis Simons (violin) and Karen Stenmark (piano) play the Violin Sonata No 3.

10.30 Ulster Orchestra conducted by Barry Wordsworth. *Seumas O'Brien's Overture*; and *Stanton's Symphony in F minor*, Op 28 (the Irish). Hilliard Ensemble, including LADS David Henshall, Michael Sillitoe, and John Sillitoe. *Twenty-four Chants* (new series) Twenty-four choirs from various parts of Britain compete to find the Radio Wales Male Voice Choir of the Year. 11.15 *Friday Night is Music*. Night dress from the Rijksmuseum. Songs from Peter Whitmore, Alan Fairs and The John McCarthy Singers. 9.30 *The Mike Mansell Singers* (s). 9.57 *Sports Desk*. 10.00 *It Sticks Out Half A Mile*. Aaside and the band. Bill Pertwee. 10.30 Brian Matthew presents *Round Midnight* (stereo from midnight).

1.00 *Night Owls* (s) with Dave Gally. 2.00 *12.12* (2) *Alien* (s) presents *You and the Night and the Music*.

Radio 2

6.00 *Ray Moore's 7.30 Terry Wogan*. 10.30 *Sir Jimmy Young*. 12.00 *Music While You Work*. 12.30 *Gloria Hunniford's 2.02 Sports Desk*. 2.30 *Ed Stewart's 3.02 Sports Desk*. 4.00 *David Henshall's 4.10 Sports Desk*. 5.30 *Hilliard Ensemble* including LADS David Henshall, Michael Sillitoe, and John Sillitoe. *Twenty-four Chants* (new series) Twenty-four choirs from various parts of Britain compete to find the Radio Wales Male Voice Choir of the Year. 7.15 *Mike Mathew's presents Round Midnight* (stereo from midnight).

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Radio 1

6.00 *John 7.00 Mike Read*. 9.00 *Simon Bates*. 11.20 *Miles Smith*, including 12.30 *Newbeat*. 2.00 *Grey Davies*. 4.30 *Peter Powell's Select-A-Disc*. 6.30 *John Denslow's 8.30 Sports Desk*. 10.00 *Andy Peacock's 9.00-10.00 The Friday Rock Show* with *Radio 1 2.00pm Sports Desk*. 2.00 *Bill Pertwee*. 10.30 *Brian Matthew's presents Round Midnight* (stereo from midnight).

1.00 *Night Owls* (s) with Dave Gally. 2.00 *12.12* (2) *Alien* (s) presents *You and the Night and the Music*.

Radio 3

6.00 *Profile*. A personal portrait. 6.30 *Any Questions?* from Larbert, Scotland. 7.15 *Letter from America* by Alastair Cooke. 9.30 *Kaleidoscope*. Arts magazine. 10.00 *Beloved*. *Beloved* (Adolescents' Letters to his children); *The Complete Lyrics of Cole Porter*; the American documentary about a musical legend. 11.00 *Afternoon News* and *Newspaper Review*. 11.30 *Letters, 5.30 Letters*. 12.00 *Letters*. 1.00 *Weather*. 1.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 1.30 *England* (as above) except 1.25pm *Wales*. 1.45 *Weather*. 1.55 *Double Feature*. 2.00 *Travel*. 2.15-2.20 *12.30pm* *For Schools*. 2.30 *1.30pm* *For Schools*. 2.45 *1.45pm* *For Schools*. 2.55 *2.00pm* *For Schools*. 3.00 *3.15pm* *For Schools*. 3.15 *3.30pm* *For Schools*. 3.30 *3.45pm* *For Schools*. 3.45 *3.55pm* *For Schools*. 3.55 *3.55pm* *For Schools*. 4.00 *4.00pm* *For Schools*. 4.15 *4.15pm* *For Schools*. 4.30 *4.30pm* *For Schools*. 4.45 *4.45pm* *For Schools*. 5.00 *5.00pm* *For Schools*. 5.15 *5.15pm* *For Schools*. 5.30 *5.30pm* *For Schools*. 5.45 *5.45pm* *For Schools*. 5.55 *5.55pm* *For Schools*. 6.00 *6.00pm* *For Schools*. 6.15 *6.15pm* *For Schools*. 6.30 *6.30pm* *For Schools*. 6.45 *6.45pm* *For Schools*. 6.55 *6.55pm* *For Schools*. 7.00 *7.00pm* *For Schools*. 7.15 *7.15pm* *For Schools*. 7.30 *7.30pm* *For Schools*. 7.45 *7.45pm* *For Schools*. 7.55 *7.55pm* *For Schools*. 8.00 *8.00pm* *For Schools*. 8.15 *8.15pm* *For Schools*. 8.30 *8.30pm* *For Schools*. 8.45 *8.45pm* *For Schools*. 8.55 *8.55pm* *For Schools*. 9.00 *9.00pm* *For Schools*. 9.15 *9.15pm* *For Schools*. 9.30 *9.30pm* *For Schools*. 9.45 *9.45pm* *For Schools*. 9.55 *9.55pm* *For Schools*. 10.00 *10.00pm* *For Schools*. 10.15 *10.15pm* *For Schools*. 10.30 *10.30pm* *For Schools*. 10.45 *10.45pm* *For Schools*. 10.55 *10.55pm* *For Schools*. 11.00 *11.00pm* *For Schools*. 11.15 *11.15pm* *For Schools*. 11.30 *11.30pm* *For Schools*. 11.45 *11.45pm* *For Schools*. 11.55 *11.55pm* *For Schools*. 12.00 *12.00pm* *For Schools*. 12.15 *12.15pm* *For Schools*. 12.30 *12.3*

Request by Syria for Soviet troops

Continued from page 1

attackers - Shia Muslims in the slums of Haya Selim and Druze militiamen in the mountains to the east - with tank rounds and Dragon anti-tank missiles.

At least two buildings apparently used by snipers were destroyed by Marine gunfire, and one report said that a group of Shia Muslim Militiamen later raised a white flag to stop the fighting.

Meanwhile in Tripoli, in northern Lebanon, Palestinian officials loyal to Mr Yassir Arafat implied that French and Italian warships may escort the four Greek vessels that are to evacuate up to 4,000 PLO guerrillas from the city. The Palestinians will sail under a United Nations flag but now fear that the Israelis will try to intercept the little fleet after the PLO's claim of responsibility for the bombing of a bus in Jerusalem this week in which four civilians, including two children, were killed.

US to lift Argentine arms ban

Continued from page 1

Arms embargoes were imposed on both Argentina and Chile during the Carter Administration because of the serious human rights violations taking place in both countries.

Although Congress approved a request by the Reagan Administration in 1981 for the arms embargo on Argentina to be lifted, this was done on condition that the President certified that the Buenos Aires Government was making progress in human rights.

The State Department cited seven areas where there had been improvement in human rights in Argentina, including the holding of free elections, release of political prisoners, lifting of restriction of political parties, trade unions and the press and an ending of the state of siege.

But he said one major human rights issue still to be resolved involved Argentina's failure to account for the thousands of people who disappeared during the "dirty war" under earlier military dictatorships.

Deserted village mourns vanishing bus

Even now the devastation is begun, And half the business of destruction done; Even now, methinks, as pondering here I stand, I see the rural virtues leave the land.

The Deserted Village by Oliver Goldsmith

By Michael Horswell

The roses will bloom as usual next summer in cottage gardens in the Norfolk village of Swanton Morley but if the Council for the Protection of Rural England is right, more as a memorial than a demonstration of the virtues of country life.

The village (population about 1,500), from which Abraham Lincoln's ancestors emigrated to America in 1637, is, according to many of its inhabitants as well as the CPRE, facing its demise as a thriving community.

Swanton Morley is one of 72 Norfolk villages threatened with losing its bus service, a vital link to the market town of Dereham, four miles away, which provides shops, doctors, a hospital and schooling for its country cousins.

About a third of the villagers have no car and more than half have only limited access to one (when the breadwinner is not using it to drive to work), so that many people depend on the bus's five daily trips to Dereham and weekly service to Norwich.

Next week Norfolk county council is expected to ratify its transportation sub-committee's decision to limit its subsidy to the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company to £500,000 a year. Eastern Counties says it needs £1.3m to maintain present services and add that as well as the 72 villages losing their buses, another 50 will be deprived of community services, with the loss of 35 jobs in all.

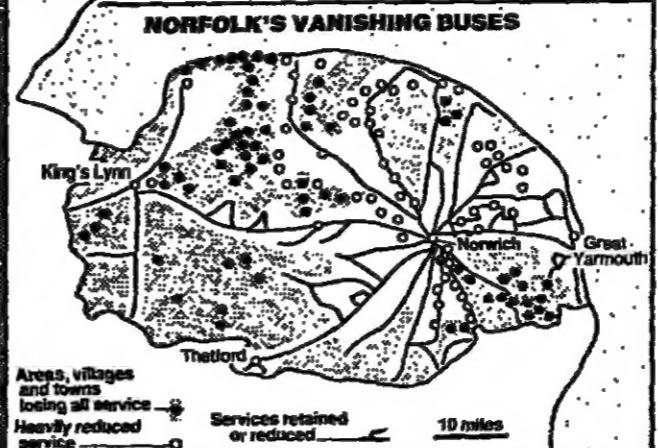
Council chiefs say they hope private operators and community buses will fill some of the gaps, but Mr Dawson Williams, general manager of Eastern Counties, dismisses this as a forlorn hope.

He said: "Previous cuts in passenger miles have not been taken over by private operators and neither would they this time. We cannot keep up loss-making services, so communities will find themselves deprived and isolated."

A meeting at the House of Commons between Eastern Counties executives and Norfolk's eight Conservative MPs earlier this week, failed to inspire any promises of parliamentary support, as the last bus to Swanton Morley will arrive at the village Post Office



Disappearing into the sunset: the fated bus from Swanton Morley to Norwich (above) and Mrs Louise Battle (left), who is worrying about having to use her bicycle



from Dereham at 14.46 on New Year's Eve.

"It is ridiculous", Mrs Peggy Carrick, president of the local Friends Club for the over 60s said.

"The bus service is so important because not everyone has a car and an old person cannot walk four miles to Dereham to see the doctor. Some people will really be isolated."

Mrs Louise Battle, a housewife aged 28 with two children, said: "How am I supposed to get the shopping? By bike? I use the bus twice a week to get into Dereham and I am completely dependent on it. It makes me very angry. I cannot afford a car and I want my independence, so I don't want to beg for lifts."

Swanton Morley, a picturesque community with two

small shops, two public houses and a primary school, is probably facing its greatest crisis since modern farming techniques deprived many of its menfolk of their labour in the fields.

Villagers want to know why Norfolk is prepared to spend only £1.44 per person a year on transport subsidies, compared with a national average of £3.15.

But Mr Ian Corrie, the county surveyor, said last night: "I should not have thought our subsidies are out of line with our rural neighbours. We are concerned that some villages will be isolated, but we believe there is substantial scope for small private operators and unconventional services like social car schemes."

(Photographs: Brian Harris)

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne, Colonel in Chief, Royal Signals, attends a briefing at the School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset, 10.

New exhibitions

French prints and drawings, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 8).

Recent works by Gerald Gadd: Landscapes, Geoffrey Huband: Maritime, Frances Cipwell and

Moira Williams: Flora and fauna, Gallery 45, 45/46 Bridge Street, Hereford; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30; closed Sun (ends Dec 24).

Music

Concert by the Farnaby Brass Ensemble, West Oxfordshire Technical College, Witney, Oxfordshire.

Recital by Margaret Campbell (flute), Kelso High School, Kelso, 7.45.

Concert by the students from the Royal College of Music, North Keesteven Music Club, Usher Gallery, Lindum Road, Lincoln, 7.30

Carol Services

Christmas concert by the York Church Orchestra, St. Sampson's Church, Church Street, York, 7.30.

Christmas concert by the Doncaster Schools Concert Band, William Appleby Music Centre, Denium Road, Doncaster, 7.

Christmas concert by New Open Group, Friends Meeting House, Harrogate, Sheffield, 30.

People's Carol Service with the Greater Manchester Police Band, St. Ann's Church, Manchester, 1.15.

General

Southern County Craft Market, the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells, 10 to 4.

Seventh Annual Edinburgh Winter Antiques Fair, Roxburgh Hotel, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 11 to 8, tomorrow 11 to 5.

Exhibitions in progress

Picture Derby: photographs of Derby from 1900 to 1983, Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (ends Dec 30).

Costume Design by Clive Hicks Jenkins for the New Theatre production of the Pantomime *Humpty Dumpty*, Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square, Newport, Gwent; Mon to Thurs 10 to 5.30, Fri 10 to 4.30, Sat 9.40 to 4, closed Sun (ends Feb 4).

Sainsbury's Images for Today: Winners of competition, British Crafts Council, Hall, Lister Park, Bradford, Tues to Sun 10 to 5, closed Mon (ends Jan 8).

Works by Welsh artists, Oriel Welsh Arts Council Gallery, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff; Mon to Sat 9 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Jan 7).

A collection for Christmas - original and rare work by English artists and craftsmen (inc. special toys), Falcon House Gallery, Swan Street, Bedford, Suffolk; Tues to Sat 10 to 3, Sun 2 to 6, closed Mon (ends Jan 29).

10 Five USA products like a straight-edge normally £1.40, 21 Make Girls transfer over two quarters for wild parties (4).

24 Book ring's trade mark (4).

Solutions of Puzzle No 16,304

5 Formed illegal army in Portuguese territory (7). 6 Went off to toboggan, skirting rising river (6). 7 Look out for one said to be a mole (4). 8 Hill-top route may be intimidating (8). 12 Snacks for 4th Sunday in Lent (12). 15 Tough defender of book bound to endure (8). 17 Plant from French well raised in Los Angeles set-up (8). 18 Once a Staff Officer met me holding one (8). 19 Real USA product like a straight-edge normally £1.40, 20 Make Girls transfer over two quarters for wild parties (4). 24 Book ring's trade mark (4).

Anniversaries

Births: John Milton, London, 1608; Johann Whackelmann, art historian, Stendal, Germany, 1717; George Grossmith, comedian, singer and author, with Weedon Grossmith, of *Diary of a Nobody*, London, 1879; Joseph Stalin (new style Dec 21), Gori, Georgia, Transcaucasia, 1878.

Parliament today

Committee (9.30): Sex Equality Bill, second reading.

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

Food prices

Over the past 5 years consumption of exotic fruit and vegetables has risen enormously, according to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau. Since 1978 imports of avocados have risen by 89 per cent, mangos by 115 per cent and pawpaws by 299 per cent.

Prices have thus gone down generally: avocados 20-30p, mangos 70p-£1, small pineapples 50-60p. Strawberries from Ecuador, a non-exporter of the fruit, were eaten with skin still on 20-26p each. Spanish almeria grapes, at 34-40p a lb, are cheapest of the four varieties around. Kumquats from Morocco and Carmel, a grape-size citrus fruit, are £1.50-£2.00 a lb. Jerusalem artichokes at 30-40p a lb, aubergines from 50-60p a lb, all good buys.

Beef prices remain steady - with topside, silverside and thick flank £1.90-£2.30 a lb and a boneless brisket £1.32-£1.65 a lb. Pork prices are similar to last week: boneless shoulder 92p-£1.30 and loin chops £1.18-£1.39 a lb. Although lamb prices are higher this week as supplies are reduced, they are cheaper than at this time last year. Whole legs range from £4.21-£6.00 a lb. Whole shoulders are £4.50-£6.00 a lb and loin chops £1.34-£1.58.

Marks & Spencer have reduced the price of their chicken packs - drums, thighs and breast - by 10 pence a lb. Their fresh and frozen turkeys are 89 pence a lb. They also sell whole chickens, with skin removed, weighing 3lb-5lb, for £1.89 a lb. Ducklings have duck at 74 pence a pound for birds up to 4lb 15oz and 78 pence a pound for heavier birds. They also have fresh turkeys and geese and customers are advised to order now for Christmas.

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Information supplied by AA

Roads

Midlands: A14: Lane closures on Huntington bypass. A45: Roadworks on Coventry - Daventry road at Fosse Crossing, Warwickshire. A47: Temporary signals at eastern end of Dereham bypass.

Wales and West: M4: Lane closures at junction 32 (Cardiff) and junction 34 (Llantrisant); delays. M4: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 22 across the Severn Bridge, affecting both carriageways. A38: Traffic restrictions on West Harptree - Churchill road at Burrington Combe.

North: A628: Temporary signals at Woodhead, north-east of Glossop, Derbyshire. A19: One-way traffic westbound at Mandale interchange, Middlebrough, Haythorpe Drive to Levick Crescent diversion. A1: Felton bypass on River Coquet, Bridge, Northumberland; closes northbound; only one lane open with temporary traffic signals.

Central: A72: Single-lane traffic with lights west of A703 junction at Peebles. A94: Single-lane traffic in Couper, Angus. A7: Single-lane traffic with lights at junction with A659, south side of Selkirk.

Scotland: A72: Single-lane traffic with lights west of A703 junction at Peebles. A94: Single-lane traffic in Couper, Angus. A7: Single-lane traffic with lights at junction with A659, south side of Selkirk.

Information supplied by AA

Top films

Top box office films in London: Christmas

(1) Rear Window

(2) Traviata

(4) Videodrome

(4) Octopussy

(7) Educating Rita

(7) Betrayed

(5) Cujo

10 Finally Sunday!

Top five in the provinces:

1 Star Chamber

2 Videodrome

3 Octopussy

4 Educating Rita

5 Christmas

Compiled by Screen International

The pound

Bank Bank Bank

Australia \$1.64 1.64 1.64

Austria Sch 28.80 27.20

Belgium Fr 83.50 79.50

Canada \$ 1.85 1.78

Denmark Kr 14.75 14.08

Finland Mkr 8.71 8.31

Iceland Kr 12.25 11.57

Germany DM 4.08 3.89

Greece Dr 161.00 151.00

Hongkong \$ 11.60 11.00

Ireland Pt 1.30 1.25

Italy Lira 2450.00 2340.00

Japan Yen 351.00 333.00

Netherlands Gld 4.57 4.34

Norway Kr 11.45 10.85

Portugal Esc 197.00 182.00

South Africa R 1.90 1.67